



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

**Long-Term Plan
2024-2034
Hearings**

Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Tabled information

LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034
HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS
Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Time	Zoom	Name	Organisation	Topic
9.30am		Welcome / Processes		
9.35am		Bruce Dickson		
9.45am		Richard White	The Friends of the William Birch Reserve	
9.55am		Dave Moore		Two submissions - one individual and one group
10.10am		Kereama Allen		
10.20am		Holly Davies	Whanganui Youth Council	
10.30am		Morning tea		
10.40am	Zoom	Elle Abel		Aviary
10.50am		Kathy Cunningham	Empire PR	
11.00am		Des Warahi	Mainstreet Whanganui	
11.10am		Beverley Pearce	Repertory Theatre	Repertory Theatre
11.20am		Graham Dyhrberg		
11.30am		Donald Trott	NZ Opera School/ NZ Opera Foundation Trust/St Pauls in the City	
11.40am		David Wells	Whanganui Rural Community Board	
11.50am		Carla Donson	Women's Network Whanganui	
12.00pm		Lunch / catch up		
1.00pm		Lola Fisher		
1.10pm		John Casanelia		
1.20pm		James Newell	Whanganui Lifeguard Service	
1.30pm		Nicola Williams	Sarjeant Gallery Trust	
1.40pm		Claire Raisin		
1.50pm	Zoom	Dean Raymond	Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Central Region	
2.00pm		Tania King	Sport Whanganui	
2.10pm		Break		
2.15pm		David Watson		LTP, Revenue & Financing Policy
2.25pm		David Watson		Parking & Development Contributions
2.35pm		Carolyn Bates		
2.45pm		George Matthews		
2.55pm		Maurice Mildenhall		
3.05pm		Frank Solitt		
3.15pm		Afternoon Tea		
3.30pm		Jo Meiklejohn		LTP & Parking
3.45pm		John Maguire		LTP & Parking
4.00pm		Geoff Hipango	Te Ao Hou Marae	
4.10pm		Sumita Dale	Kai Iwi Beach Community Group	Rapanui Road Trail
4.20pm		Susan Campion	Whanganui Tramping Club's Cycling Gro	Rapanui Road Trail
4.30pm		Jango		
4.50pm		End of Day One		

Dale, Sumita - Kai Iwi Beach Community Group
- Rapanui Road Trail

RAPANUI ROAD TRAIL









**THE CLOSURE OF THE
WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council serves as a platform for rangatahi to actively participate in local governance, voice their concerns, and advocate for issues that matter to them.

**We deserve to be
considered equal
stakeholders in
shaping our future.**

We are *constantly* reassured
that our voices matter, but
actions speak louder than
words.



As evidenced by the council's **own** community engagement initiatives for the Long Term Plan consultation, youth perspectives are **incredibly important** in decision-making processes.

CONSULTATION Community groups / stakeholders	Techniques to engage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Citadel○ The Extravaganza Fair (TBC)○ Majestic Square● Engagement with Youth Council, Whanganui Rural Community Board, Positive Ageing Forum <p>Promotion and direct engagement with community groups and...</p>

Suggesting the use of Youth Council for community engagement while simultaneously planning our dissolution is disingenuous and disrespects the efforts of young people who have dedicated their time and energy to serving their community.

The Ashburton District Council voted to disband the youth council in December, also without any consultation with the members. It decided to shift its focus to digital engagement, and resurrect the annual Ashburton Youth Forum instead.

11 Apr 2024

'How can we not continue?' Gore votes to save its youth council

Whanganui District Council is proposing to cut its youth council by June as part of its long-term plan. It's not the only youth council in danger.

Last year, Ashburton District Council cut their youth council and Gore District Council considered cutting theirs.

These district councils say their youth councils are not fulfilling their intended purpose and that the money allocated to running youth councils could be better spent on engaging with external youth groups.

But Whanganui youth councillor Lola Fisher says youth councils are the "first port of call" when councils need to consult with rangatahi.

NEW ZEALAND RE-NEWS

Youth voices in local government are being silenced

By Janhavi Gosavi, Re: News Multimedia Journalist | Fri, Apr 12



Stratford District Youth Council advocates for youth voice after Whanganui scraps youth council

By [Grace Odium](#)
3 May, 2024 02:33 PM 3 mins to read

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NEW ZEALAND / LOCAL COUNCIL

Youth councillor 'shocked' by decision to axe council

1:09 pm on 11 April 2024

Share this

Pretoria Gordon, Journalist
pretoria.gordon@rnz.co.nz



Photo: Supplied / Google Maps

An Open Letter to All District Councils/Councillors

Tēnā koe,

The youth voice is fundamental in shaping the future of our communities. We, the youth councils from across the country, as a snapshot of the 1,600,000 people under 25 in New Zealand, write to you with a sense of deep urgency and concern.

It has come to our attention that youth councils throughout the country have come under threat, a decision that could have far-reaching consequences for the democratic process and the well-being of our cities. In particular, the recent decision to close the Whanganui District Youth Council as a 'cost cutting measure' has caused us to take action to amplify the necessity of youth councils as a core regional and local civic engagement mechanism and key to city planning for future generations.

At a time when our generation is facing unprecedented challenges, from climate change to social inequality, the need for youth representation in civic decision-making has never been more crucial. Youth councils serve as one of the only platforms for young people to actively engage in the democratic process, to voice their concerns, and to contribute their ideas for a better future. It rings especially true for young people under the age of 18, where there is no other method to contribute to the decisions that affect the communities in which they live.

Our message to city councillors is clear: you are not just building cities for yourselves, but for the generations to come. Your decisions today will have lasting impacts on the lives of future inhabitants. Therefore, it is imperative that youth voices are not only heard but also valued in the policymaking process.

We urge you to affirm and champion the importance of youth councils in fostering civic engagement and creating inclusive communities. Instead of disbanding these vital platforms, we call upon you to invest in them, to provide the necessary resources and support to ensure that young people have a seat at the table where decisions about their future are being made.

We ask for your commitment to maintaining and not defunding our youth councils by reflecting this in your relevant Children and Youth Strategy and in your public support for this open letter.

Youth Councils are essential pillars of our communities, and their continued existence is crucial for the well-being and prosperity of our young people. Young people make up

one third of the entire NZ population, and we deserve to have one of our only methods of civics engagement and participation preserved.

Together, let us work towards building cities that are inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of all their inhabitants, present, and future.

Ngā mihi,

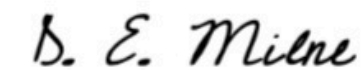
Finley Duncan
Co-Chair of the Wellington City Youth Council



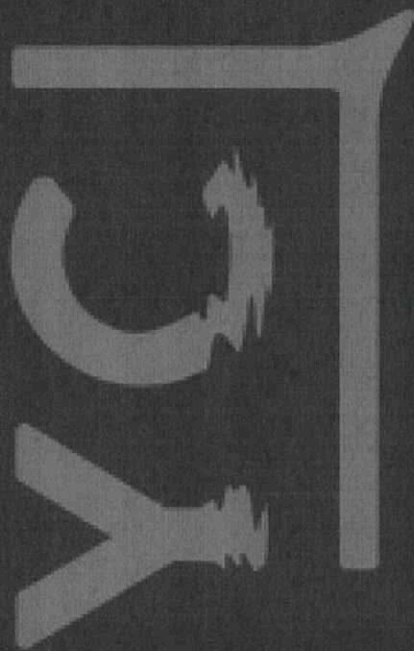
Vira Paky
Co-Chair of the Auckland Council Youth Advisory Panel



Diana Milne
Co-Chair of the Wellington City Youth Council



**Young
people
matter.**



Whanganui District Council

YOUTH COUNCIL

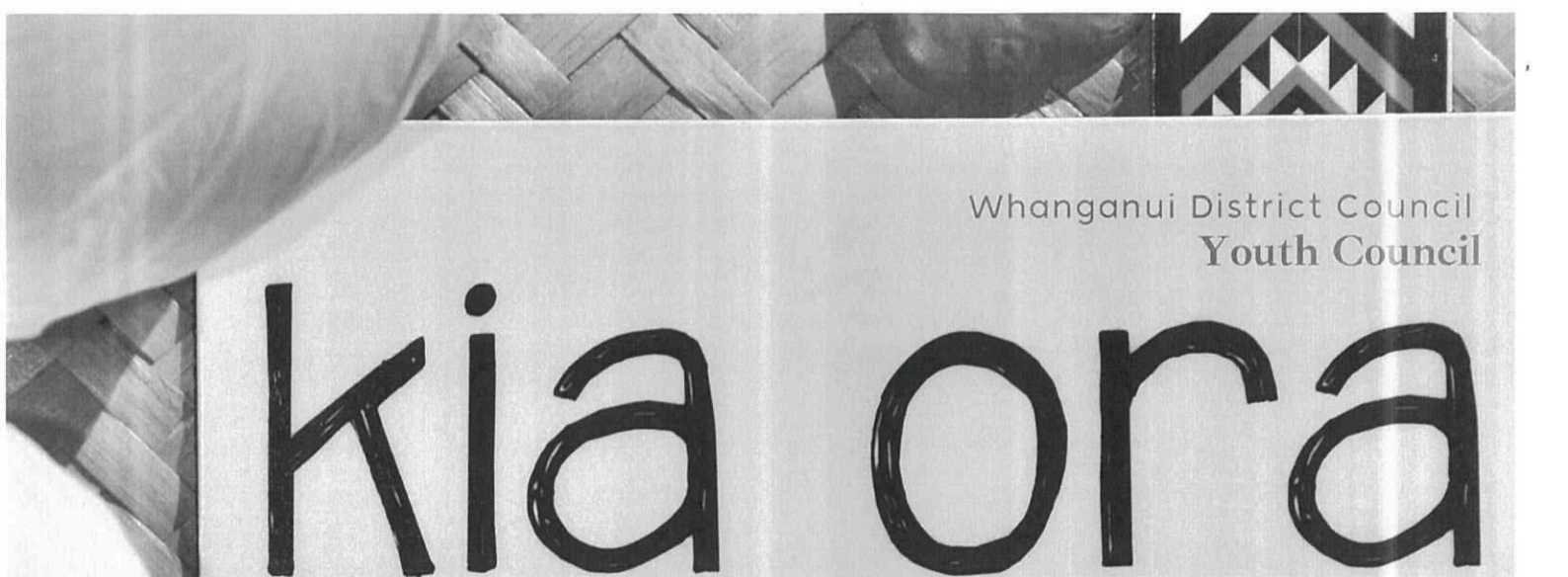


HANDBOOK 2022-23

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Whanganui District Council
Youth Council

Kia ora

**THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU!
CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING A YOUTH COUNCILLOR OR FOR DECIDING TO
JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER! WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!**

Kia ora e hoa,

Being a part of the Youth Council can be an experience like no other, it is a chance to connect with other like-minded people, to speak up for what you believe in, and to make change happen that impacts youth in our community. Taking part in the Youth Council can be a really rewarding experience. The time and energy you put into this group can create positive change that impacts rangatahi today, and also for generations of come.

The Whanganui District Council recognizes how important it is to understand what is important to youth people in Whanganui District. The only ones who truly understand this is you – the rangatahi of the district. This is why the Youth Council was created, to provide a forum for obtaining advice about matters that impact youth, and to connect rangatahi to create opportunities that support the wellness of all rangathi in the district.

Whether you are joining us as a volunteer, or as a Youth Councillor, we are excited to have you on our team!

*Ngā manaakitanga,
Stacy White – Project Support Officer, Youth Council*

THE BASICS

01 **SPEAK UP * SPEAK OUT * BE HEARD**

A LITTLE OVERVIEW OF ALL THINGS YOUTH COUNCIL (YC), FROM WHY WE'RE HERE TO WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.....

Whanganui District Council's Youth Council is a collective of rangatahi aged from 12-24 who represent the 'voice' of youth across the district. Youth Councillors and volunteers share a passion for youth issues and consider ourselves to be the voices of all youth in Whanganui. The Youth Council allows the youth within our community to have a say and influence on what goes on. The role of Youth Councillors (and also volunteers) is important because we are the community of tomorrow, so it is vital that we take interest in topical issues and make sure that the youth voice is heard strongly throughout all aspects of Whanganui life.

Being a part of the Youth Council is an experience like no other. It is a chance to connect with like-minded people, to speak up for what you believe in, and implement change by youth/for youth within the community.

Being a Youth Councillor is a rewarding experience; and it's also a large commitment.

As a Youth Councillor you:

- represent the community's young people
- promote opportunities for youth participation
- develop and monitor policy on youth issues
- provide opportunities for youth to contribute to the decision-making of Whanganui District Council
- advise the Council on matters of interest for youth in the Whanganui District.

We, the Youth Council, are a group of rangatahi who share a passion for youth issues and work hard to best represent the youth voice from across Whanganui District.

In addition, the Youth Council:

- Develops the skills and capabilities of its members as leaders within our community
- Encourages youth participation in civic affairs and provides a youth perspective on District issues, policies, and future planning
- Strengthens the engagement between WDC and Whanganui rangatahi to enable rangatahi to participate in community decision making processes.
- Assists and advises WDC on how it can be: a District full of opportunities that empowers, inspires, and uses meaningful engagement for and with rangatahi.

The purpose of the Youth Council is to allow the youth within our community to have a say and influence on what happens in the community. The role Youth Councillors play is important because the youth are the community leaders of tomorrow, It is vital that we take interest in current issues and make sure the youth voice is heard strongly throughout all aspects of Whanganui life.

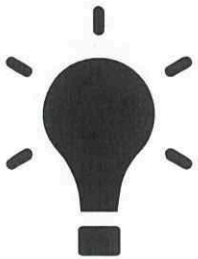
VISION & PURPOSE

SPEAK UP * SPEAK OUT * BE HEARD



VISION:

TO ENSURE THAT WHANGANUI IS A VIBRANT, INCLUSIVE, EMPOWERING COMMUNITY, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE TO BE.



PURPOSE:

TO EMPOWER WHANGANUI YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE BY PROVIDING THE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.

IN THIS HANDBOOK:

WDC = WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

YC = YOUTH COUNCIL

PSO = PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER

"UNITY IS STRENGTH... WHEN THERE IS TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION, WONDERFUL THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED"

– MATTIE STEPANEK

The YC is made up of a leadership team (two co-chairs, a PSO (project support officer), and an elected WDC member), Youth Councillors, and a team of volunteers. There are 14 seats on the Youth Council for local rangatahi, an additional four seats have been allocated for Tangata Whenua and there are unlimited volunteer positions available!

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Youth Council is comprised of:

- up to 14 Whanganui residents aged 12 to 24 years of age, appointed via Youth Council recruitment process
- one appointed Whanganui District councillor, appointed directly by Council and the Mayor.
- one tangata whenua representative appointed by each of:
 - Tupoho
 - Tamaupoko
 - Ngāti Apa
 - Ngaa Rauru

*more details on Youth Council Membership can be found in the Membership Details section.

KEY TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Youth Council members and volunteers are expected to:

- Attend all formal meetings
- Attend informal meetings (fortnightly)
- Actively participate in Youth Council meetings and get involved in projects and activities outside of meetings.
- Attend retreats and training days, teambuilding events and hui's on occasional weekends
- Share information, learnings with other rangatahi.
- Listen to youth in the community and feedback their views and ideas to the Youth Council.
- Follow our Code of Conduct and respect the Tikanga of the group
- Understand the expectations of the roles and be familiar with the Youth Council Handbook.

MEETINGS

The Youth Council meets fortnightly. The majority of our meetings are informal meetings to discuss projects and hear from community partners and organizations. Our Standing Orders require that we have at least 4 formal meetings each calendar year. Dates for formal meetings will be communicated to all members at least two weeks in advance. The majority of our meetings are held at the Council building (101 Guyton St).

Formal meetings are mandatory for all members and start at 4pm and usually end at 6:30pm. Informal meetings are compulsory and usually run from 4pm to 6pm. Project and working group meetings can be held at any time and the length is variable.



STANDING ORDERS

At the meeting (continued...):

6. Public forum – if members of the community have requested to present, they have an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes.

7. Reports from staff – discussion should focus on recommendations and to those matters requiring approval or feedback.

8. Updates from members – these should be brief and on specific topics, particularly working party activities.

9. General business is the time for minor items to be raised. The Chairperson has the right to decide whether the matter should be discussed. Any correspondence received can be discussed at this time.

10. Close of meeting – Chair thanks members for participation and formally closes the meeting, noting the time and date of the next formal meeting.

Effective chairing

The Chairperson is responsible for the following during meetings:

- Indicating when a person may speak.
- Keeping the discussion targeted to the topic.
- Deciding when the discussion should be brought to an end.
- Presiding over voting.

Discussion

Members may speak at the approval of the chair. The chair is to ensure that all members get a fair chance to speak on each item, and the members behave in a respectful manner in the meeting. If the chair determines a member has behaved in a way contrary to the Youth Council Values and Expectations, they can ask them to leave the meeting.

Voting

The chair should ensure an issue is well canvassed before moving to voting. All members have voting rights at meetings. Each proposed decision or amendment must be moved and seconded. Votes are by majority and a show of hands.

Post meeting

The co-chairs should follow-up with the Youth Council Project Support Officer to confirm any actions resulting from the meeting and relevant next steps. The Youth Council Project Support Officer will circulate the meeting minutes to all members within 1 week of the meeting taking place.

YC BUSINESS PLAN & PROJECTS

“LET US MAKE OUR FUTURE NOW, AND LET US MAKE OUR DREAMS TOMORROW’S REALITY.” – MALALA YOUSAFZAI

The Youth Council has a Council approved budget and a business plan. This enables the Youth Council to engage with local rangatahi through events, outreach, promotions, and projects

Each year, the Youth Council is given a budget from the larger WDC Annual Plan (The term 'year' is based on the WDC financial year, which goes from July-June) . The YC has financial delegation of this money.

In 2021, the Youth Council set out to map out a three-year Business Plan. Each year, the Youth Council provides and update to Council regarding the business plan that highlights and provides details on the projects and the way the budget will be allocated for that financial year.

Within the annual update to council, the Youth Council decides which projects they will focus on during that fiscal year. In order for a project to be sustainable, and achievable - we require that multiple YC members have interest and capacity to see it through to completion.

Each project requires a completed project plan to be submitted. Any budget spent on a project must be approved during a formal meeting and included in an update to Council. During the financial year, YC members can pitch a new idea for a project to the team.

The YC often receives asks for funding from the community. Each request is reviewed independently with consideration of youth impact, and involvement. . Funding is not provided for large scale music festivals, or to be given away as prizes at events.



STANDING ORDERS

At the meeting (continued...):

6. Public forum – if members of the community have requested to present, they have an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes.
7. Reports from staff – discussion should focus on recommendations and to those matters requiring approval or feedback.
8. Updates from members – these should be brief and on specific topics, particularly working party activities.
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Post meeting

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE YOUTH COUNCIL'S TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE, SCOPE, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

WHANGANUI YOUTH COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

(New name) Youth Council

Vision

To ensure that Whanganui is a vibrant, inclusive, empowering community, where young people love to be.

Purpose

To empower Whanganui young people to be the best they can be by providing the resources and opportunities that they need to succeed.

The role of the Youth Council is to engage with Whanganui District Council in order to:

- Represent the community's young people.
- Promote opportunities for youth participation.
- Develop and monitor policy on youth issues.
- Provide opportunities for Youth to contribute to the decision-making of Council.
- Advise the Council on matters of interest for Youth in the Whanganui District.

Membership

The membership of the Youth Council will be comprised of:

- up to 14 Whanganui residents aged 12 to 24 years of age, appointed via Youth Council recruitment process
- one appointed Whanganui District councillor, appointed directly by Council
- one representative appointed by each of:
 - Tupoho
 - Tamaupoko
 - Ngāti Apa
 - Ngaa Rauru

Further criteria and attributes of Youth Councillors are outlined in the Youth Council Handbook.

...Continued on next page

TERMS OF REFERENCE



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

WHANGANUI YOUTH COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of appointment

Youth members are appointed for a two year term, with the right to apply for a second term. Membership will cease if a member misses more than three consecutive formal meetings without an apology, or breaches the Youth Council Values and Expectations, as outlined in the Handbook. A breach of this kind will be assessed by the Leadership Team.

Quorum

The quorum for each formal meeting is half the current membership, if membership is even, and a majority if membership is an odd number.

Meeting Procedure

The Youth Council's formal meetings will operate using Youth Council Standing Orders. Council staff will prepare an agenda and minutes for each formal meeting.

Business plan

Each financial year the Youth Council will adopt a business plan. This will outline how the budget will be allocated across the Youth Council's strategic priorities. The adoption of the business plan must be determined by a full Youth Council vote.

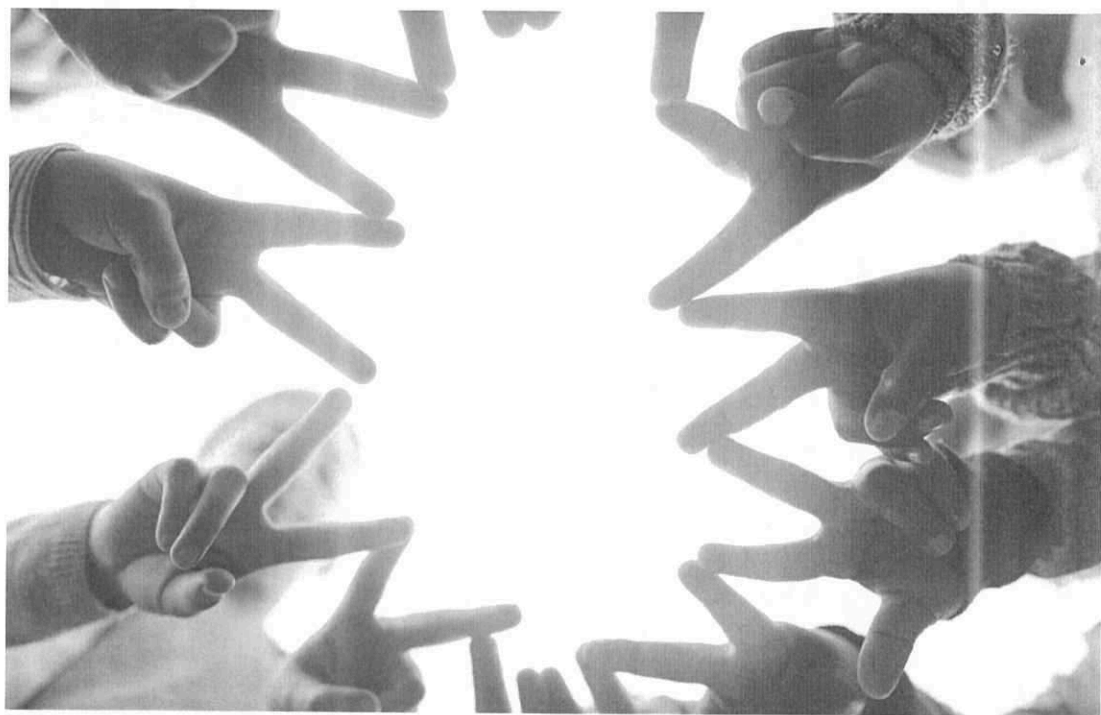
Reporting

The Youth Council will report to Council following each formal meeting. The report will outline activities within and beyond meetings, recent achievements, and any issues for the Council to consider further.

Review

The terms of reference for the Youth Council will be reviewed by Council following each triennial election.

04 CODE OF CONDUCT



THE YOUTH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT GIVES SOME DETAIL ON THE CULTURE OF THE YC AND DESCRIBES ITS TIKANGA. IT IS A SET OF GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT WE MEET AND CARRY OUT OUR WORK IN A SAFE, SKILLED, AND ETHICAL MANNER.

The objective of the code is to enhance:

- Mutual trust, respect and tolerance between members as a group, and with Councillors and Council staff.
- The credibility and accountability of the Council within its communities.

1.

Members will conduct their dealings with each other, and elected members, in ways that:

- are open, honest, respectful, and maintain integrity;
- show enthusiasm and innovation.
- focus on issues rather than personalities;
- avoid aggressive, offensive and abusive conduct;
- maintain confidence in their group;

The effective performance of the Youth Council also requires a high level of cooperation and mutual respect between members and Council staff. To ensure this is maintained, members will:

- treat all with courtesy and respect (including the avoidance of aggressive, offensive or abusive conduct);
- respect meeting dates and times (arrive on time, communicate if a member is unable to attend or is running late)

2.

SUBMISSION to WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2024 to 2034

ROYAL WHANGANUI OPERA HOUSE

SUMMARY of the SUBMISSION from BRUCE DICKSON

1 I support Council's proposal to respond to the health & safety issues identified as relating to the Stage area . I do not support Councils intention to adopt Option 3 as proposed – this goes well beyond the H&S needs and the strengthening work required to allow the temporary stage scaffolding to be removed

2 I have significant knowledge and experience in working with this building . I regard the buildings as one of the most important assets which Whanganui has ..As a 125 year old Victorian theatre it is much loved despite its limitations in providing a modern theatre experience - but I believe that Whanganui accepts that .

3 The strengthening and upgrading work which was done in 2016 was carried out with an absolutely minimal budget – but those of us who worked on that project accepted that Council was acting responsibly and fiscally prudently . There were many things which we would have liked to have done to achieve further improvements but which were not done because of the limited finding available . I think that the overall cost of that work was something less than \$3 million .

4 The argument put forward for Option 3 is that rebuilding the entire stage area will upgrade the stage to modern day expectations and larger productions will come .How many of these are there likely to be and how many Whanganui patrons will attend because of this .

5 I ask Council to adopt another Option -between that of 1 and 2 as currently offered – which answers the shortcomings to the stage area identified by the audit and strengthens that part of the building to allow the temporary scaffolding to be removed and the theatre returned to its full operating capability as it has been for decades .This could be acheived at a fraction of the cost of Options 2 or 3 .

6 There are 4 risks which I would ask council to consider in relation to option 3

- Demolishing the existing Stage building and rebuilding a significantly wider and higher replacement will have a detrimental effect on heritage values . This building will overpower the original both physically and visually . Resource consent will be required and I expect considerable concern to be expressed by Heritage NZ / the WRHTrust and many other organisations and individuals . Such processes can be both lengthy and costly
- The estimate of cost proposed could well be understated (reference the Sarjeant Project)
- The budget includes for 50 % Grant funding . this is extremely ambitious and unachievable
- Should any of options 2 -4 be chosen there will still be a large number of limitations existing in the "front of House/patron area ".The building has only been strengthened to 34% NBS /the heating,cooling and ventilation system is inadequate/the exterior space outside the theatre and also the entry and circulation spaces are all too small /the bar area is too small /toilet provision is at one level only / there are a number of compliance issues not resolved especially disabled persons access .All of these limitations could be resolved but at significant cost. Timaru Council is proposing to spend \$57 million on their Theatre Royal

CONCLUSION -There are 2 main factors in achieving a great theatre experience -the quality and content of the production itself and the comfort and experience of the attendance .One will not work without the other . Whanganui is content with its wonderful theatre -limitations and all.

SUBMISSION to WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

HOTEL and CAR PARK

SUMMARY of the SUBMISSION from BRUCE DICKSON

1 This Council proposal has progressed significantly since I made my submission in that it appears that Council has purchased a number of properties in the centre of town for the purpose of building a 60 bed hotel with covered car park at an estimated cost of \$55 million . Council has the advantage over myself and others who question this proposal in that Council has done the work to establish that there is a shortage of 60 beds and that this is in the centre of town . If this is the case I could support an Option which looked at the various ways of supplying those rooms – and there would be several avenues to pursue – without Council ownership . That seems to go completely against what constitutes “Core Business “

2 Is the construction of a 60 bed hotel with covered car park the best way of providing the beds claimed to be needed ? Many travellers who are looking for a “local experience “ avoid large modern hotels in favour of smaller boutique hotels which speak of the area . Could these beds not be provided in several smaller hotels – perhaps existing hotels extended or smaller ones created in existing character buildings . Have existing hotel owners been asked for their thoughts /interest . Have owners of existing buildings been approached to ascertain their interest . I know of 2 who would be interested . Has Council considered the damage to existing hotel and motel providers businesses (most of which are locally owned and significant ratepayers) If the barrier to the development of smaller hotels is finance is this not where Council could assist in ways to catalyse a number of developments . Public /private partnerships have possibilities and could be far less financially risky .

3 In the past Council has been involved in or attempted to be involved with a number of major developments in the centre of Whanganui . Trafalgar Square was a result of that thinking where a number of important heritage buildings were demolished to make way for a large shopping centre of an extremely ugly design . Not only that it was built in the wrong place and caused inestimable damage to Victoria Avenue retail businesses . A similar initiative was taken by Council to engineer the purchase of the Rutland Hotel building and all of the neighbouring buildings on Ridgway Street – demolish all of them in favour of a single storey Farmers Store complete with car park . Fortunately that plan was foiled . Since that time council has come to understand the value of the central cities heritage buildings and several studies have been able to quantify that in \$ terms . Whanganui has 4 major advantages – its people /its river /its parks and trees /its heritage buildings . The Council does not spend enough money on any of them.

4 Now that we have been made aware of where Council proposes to construct this hotel – namely the site of a number of listed highly regarded heritage buildings more nervousness has been created concerning the future of those buildings . Are they to be kept and integrated into a complex hotel development or are they to be demolished to make way for a shiny new one .

CONCLUSION There are many risks in this Council proposal – financial risks / risks of damage to existing businesses and not looking to locals to offer alternatives /risks of damage to the heritage status of central Whanganui which has been hard fought for /risks of exceeding councils own core business responsibilities . I sincerely hope that Council will reconsider its whole approach and seek local opinion and guidance on how to provide for the accommodation deemed to be required – think laterally and look also for added advantages that potential accommodation developments might be able to bring .

Whanganui District Council Submission –

Maurice Mildenhall, 2.55pm, Tuesday 14 May 2024

vi

re Draft Long-Term Plan 2023 - 2034 (LTP)

Mayor and Councillors, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to speak.

My Subject matter – Road formation and Shared path-ways Montgomery Road, Mosston Road, Rapanui Road.

Keep heavy vehicles off Dublin Street Bridge and continue to reroute to Town bridge and Cobham bridge. No more raised platforms / judder bars on Somme Parade including Pakaitore crossing

Delay replacement of Dublin Street bridge, improve resilience on the bridge and at Jones Street / Anzac Parade intersection.

Road and Shared path-ways on Montgomery Road, Mosston Road, and Rapanui Road.

Both Montgomery Road and Mosston Road are key collector roads in our City road network. In terms of being fit for purpose they are by far the poor relation to all other similar links.

I refer specifically to Montgomery Road between Sandy Lane and Mosston Road, to Mosston Road between Tayforth Road and the Castlecliff residential area. 80% of the carriageway across this length has no sealed shoulder. This is well below design standards as specified in NZS4404:2010 for such routes.

There is no protection for vulnerable road users, pedestrians particularly **school children** and cyclists. There is no manoeuvre space for vehicles.

There is no shared pathway on Montgomery Road between Sandy Lane and Mosston Road and on Mosston Road between Buxton Road and residential Castle Cliff. Funding and construction must be identified in your LTP and prioritised ahead of the Rapanui Road shared pathway.

Such development will put in a network spine to the adjacent intersections ((*Sandcroft Drive (Montgomery Road), Buxton Road, Clarkson Avenue, Fox Road (in the LTP), Fitzherbert Avenue (a new intersection with a shared pathway junction), and Mill Road (also a new intersection)*)). This will give linkage to local vital urban transport systems.

RECOMMENDATION:

1 Include a shared pathways on Montgomery Road and Mosston Road as detailed above.

2 Include both Montgomery Road and Mosston Road for full pavement upgrades to current design standard.

Keep heavy vehicles off Dublin Street Bridge, use Town bridge and Cobham bridge river bank Option

Detail of heavy vehicle volumes on Somme Parade wishing to use Dublin Street Bridge appears to be much over rated. Heavy traffic is currently minimal to the local mill and rail siding.

A very simple economic solution is for heavy transport to continue south on Somme Parade to the Town Bridge or SH3 Cobham Bridge. This should be straight down the river bank, *see attached diagram*. Council must **desist** in putting heavy vehicle unfriendly judder bars / raised platforms on this route.

It also must review its truck routes across the City and remove other like judder bars / raised platforms. This will greatly assist door to door truck delivery.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review all current truck routes in the urban area to aid our local industry.

Dublin Street Bridge replacement

The replacement bridge will cost a huge amount of money, \$69,000,000. How can this be mitigated? Initially check this figure. I think it should be in the order of \$12 - 20,000,000.

The LTP has no discussion on the current bridge resilience.

It would appear that with prudent management at the Dublin bridge to Jones Street link the bridge can continue to operate during major flooding. Further, elevation of the intersection area across Anzac Parade could guarantee route security to Whanganui East.

In the long term, an immediate bypass road via Durie Hill / Durievale should be considered in Councils resilience flood plan.

Council and NZTA need to 'bang heads and talk' and stop living in their own isolated silos.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 Delay replacement of Dublin Street bridge.**
- 2 Improve resilience on Dublin Street Bridge and at Jones Street and Anzac Parade intersection in the immediate future.**

**Maurice and Sue Mildenhall
54 Montgomery Road**

Attachments

- 1 Truck routes per the District Plan and obstructions**

2 Conceptual cycle route Whanganui – Waitotara, Okotoko beach – Wainu beach section

Footnote

- 1 We support Rapanui Road shared pathway and it should be readied as a ‘shovel ready’ project. Fund through current channels, Dublin Bridge project savings or future specific ‘green’ funding.
- 2 Think big. What about a Whanganui to Waitotara shared pathway. Complete Rapanui Road, use the existing sealed and gravel roads from Kai Iwi to Ototoke Beach, develop a route across to the newly developed Station Road and onto Waitotara. See attachment.



Roger McLeay
Downers
Whanganui

By email only to: <Roger.McLeay@downer.co.nz>

Dear Roger

Taupo Quay - Proposed Raised Pedestrian Platform

My apologies for not being timelier with a response from Whanganui Council of NZAA on this issue. In all honesty, I think it was lost with our communications about SH3 London St.

Anyway, it was discussed at our Council meeting on Monday 16 November 2020.

Our Council has had real concerns about the short section of Taupo Quay from Drews Avenue to Victoria Ave, ever since it was reconstructed and made so narrow. Those concerns were shared with Rui Leitao, WDC's then Rooding Manager. He assured us to have faith as the narrowing and speed bumps would deter heavy traffic. The evidence by observation would suggest otherwise. Heavy trucks regularly use this route, in particular to cross the river over the City Bridge to SH4, due to the weight and dimension restricted Dublin Bridge. In fact, there is a heavy component of left turn vehicles at this intersection indicating there is still a fairly high demand.

We note from the Whanganui District Plan's associated maps that, Somme Parade has had its status as a traffic route removed which we assume is to give alignment to the future heritage / pedestrianisation of the area as per WDC's vision documents for the area.

We would acknowledge that any speed reduction of the traffic, gives assistance to pedestrians, especially on Saturday's market day. However, by adding more platforms along the road, there are negative impacts (factually) on vehicle running costs, and emissions.

We believe therefore, until there is the reality of a new bridge, we cannot in the meantime agree that Somme Parade should be reduced to an obstacle course for vehicles. We are further concerned that if WDC has in mind that motorists should use the designated arterial network to avoid Somme Parade, we need to be made aware of how Council proposes to avoid or remedy the consequential, and considerable environmental / vehicle operating impacts.

We make the point that whilst traffic-calming measures act as the instruments to reduce the speed of vehicles (and can make a major contribution to road safety); there is a down side. Traffic devices constructed in roadways to manage speeds create additional vehicle emissions and vehicle wear and tear. This is because motorists have to use brakes and accelerate more frequently to negotiate them. Such devices are commonly only used for Local (residential) Area Traffic Management (LATM), not on arterial or principal routes.

Authoritative studies have shown that their effects on motor vehicles more than double carbon emissions, (along with nitrogen, as NO or NO2) and increasing air pollution by two-five times with particulate matter. It is timely therefore that WDC officials be looking at all avenues for reducing emissions, because cars (and HCV's) operate most efficiently when they drive at consistent speeds.

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GUIDING LIFE'S JOURNEYS
FOR OVER 110 YEARS.

New Zealand Automobile Association



It is important we raise this because WDC declared a 'climate emergency' 11 February 2020, which is in complete contrast to the proposed actions to put obstacles in our local roads, with the principal objective to force motorists to take longer and more inefficient routes. Surely, this is inappropriate. There are 9,000 v.p.d. using Somme Parade and 50% of them travel inbound and beyond Moutoa Gardens. The additional distances and time taken to use alternative routes are diametrically at odds with WDC's environmental position.

We are told every little bit helps and to this end, our official position is *"The (NZ) AA recognises that motorists can contribute to combating climate change. AA Members are keen to minimise their emissions. However, AA research has found that Members do not generally support initiatives that significantly restrict their freedom of mobility or dramatically increase the cost of motoring."*

We assume over time additional platforms are proposed on Somme Parade and it would be helpful to disclose any such strategy when seeking feedback otherwise we are dealing with discrete issues not part of the 'big picture'.

There are two platforms already in place, one near Dublin Bridge and the other Drews Avenue and have anecdotally made no difference to the vehicle counts.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that logging / curtain-siders et al continue to trundle through Somme Parade, for the reason it is where they want to go, via the path of least resistance, because the alternatives are unrealistic for many.

While it may feel good to advocate that all heavy traffic and eventually the majority of users have to re-route through Dublin/Glasgow etc, (depending on destination), the arterial road hierarchy as described in the District Plan not only needs to be made clearer to motorists, it also has to be made more route-friendly.

The attached plan was prepared to show a comparison between using Somme Parade and designated WDC arterial routes for the SH4 bound trips. There are some alarming results. A vehicle travelling south from the (awkward) divide on Somme Parade into Glasgow Street to cross the City bridge via St Hill Street, has to negotiate 8 sets of traffic signals plus two roundabouts and a recently constructed (and inappropriate) raised platform in St Hill Street. It is not any better for a motorist coming off the Dublin Bridge either with the same destination. Very clearly, the arterial roads do not function as their hierarchy suggests.

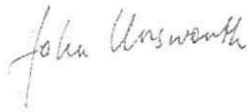
The additional distance (time) travelled as well as the interruptions en-route/s (when compared with using Somme Parade) are about as environmentally unfriendly as can be imagined. Eventually a new bridge with sufficient capacity may solve these problems.

It is for these reasons that we see the logic of the proposal being ahead of time to complement WDC's longer-term vision for the lower end of Taupo Quay / Somme Parade, and most definitely if proceeded with, is completely and blatantly out of step with its environmental policies.

Until the matters outlined above are taken more seriously, we regret we are in no position to give the support for the continuing downgrading of the Somme Parade route. We would suggest making use of your current Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2017 to regulate certain classes of vehicles at certain times / certain days if you think there should immediate restrictions. This was the view of AA when we submitted on the WUTS many years ago.

Should you require support for the new bridge proposal AA Whanganui will be very willing to oblige in addressing the significant and compromising concerns the existing bridge creates.

Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Unsworth".

John Unsworth
Chair
NZAA Whanganui

Part - Whanganui to Waitotara Cycle Route CONCEPTUAL

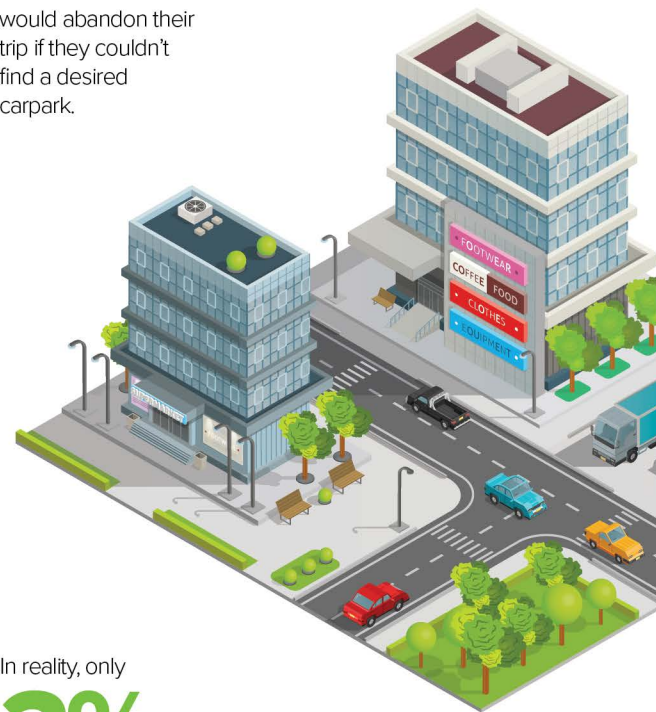


Parking Behaviour in Palmerston North's City Centre

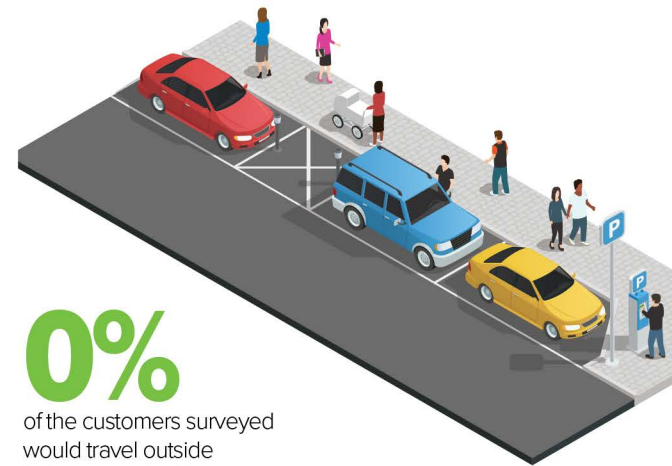
We asked 312 customers and 117 businesses in Palmerston North's city centre about their travel behaviour and their trip purpose. We then compared the answers of both groups to see where they aligned and differed. Here are the results.

CUSTOMERS ARE BIG ON LOYALTY

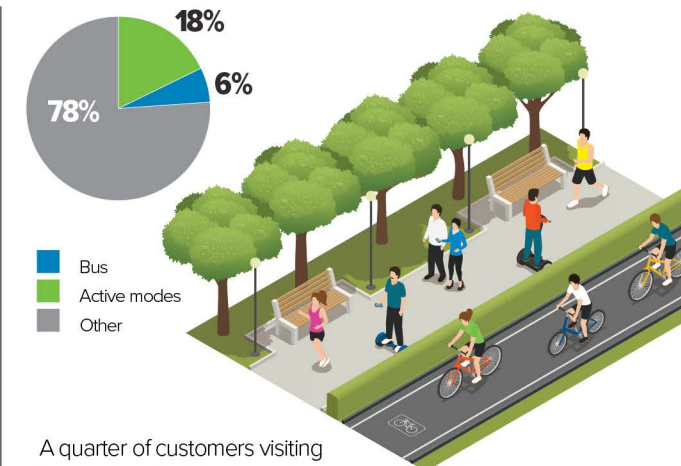
Businesses believed that 20% of their customers would abandon their trip if they couldn't find a desired carpark.



In reality, only **3%** of customers would do so.



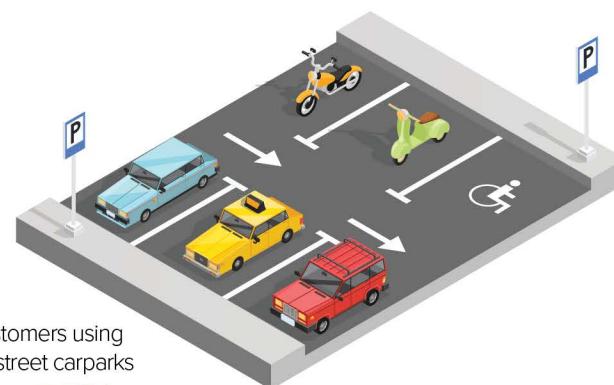
0% of the customers surveyed would travel outside Palmerston North's city centre if they were unable to find a desired carpark.



A quarter of customers visiting Palmerston North's city centre choose to travel by foot, bike, e-scooter or bus.

Customers who walked, cycled or used public transport were nearly

2x as likely to visit destinations on both sides of the city centre than those using private vehicles.



Customers using off-street carparks spend **14%** more time and **46%** more money in the city centre than those using on-street carparks.

Businesses in Palmerston North estimated 80% of their customers parked in close proximity to their business.



Customers who travel to Palmerston North's city centre by bus or active modes are

2x as likely to visit frequently than those using private vehicles. They also spend **14%** longer and visit more parts of the city centre.



96%

of customers identified the city centre as the only and/or final destination in their trip.



LOCALS ARE WHERE IT'S AT

Customers from outside Palmerston North spend a reported average of \$215 per visit compared to locals at \$78 per visit. However, local customers were

3x more likely to be frequent visitors (3+ days a week) than those from outside the city.



In reality, it was an average of **46%**

BETTER STREETS = BETTER BUSINESS

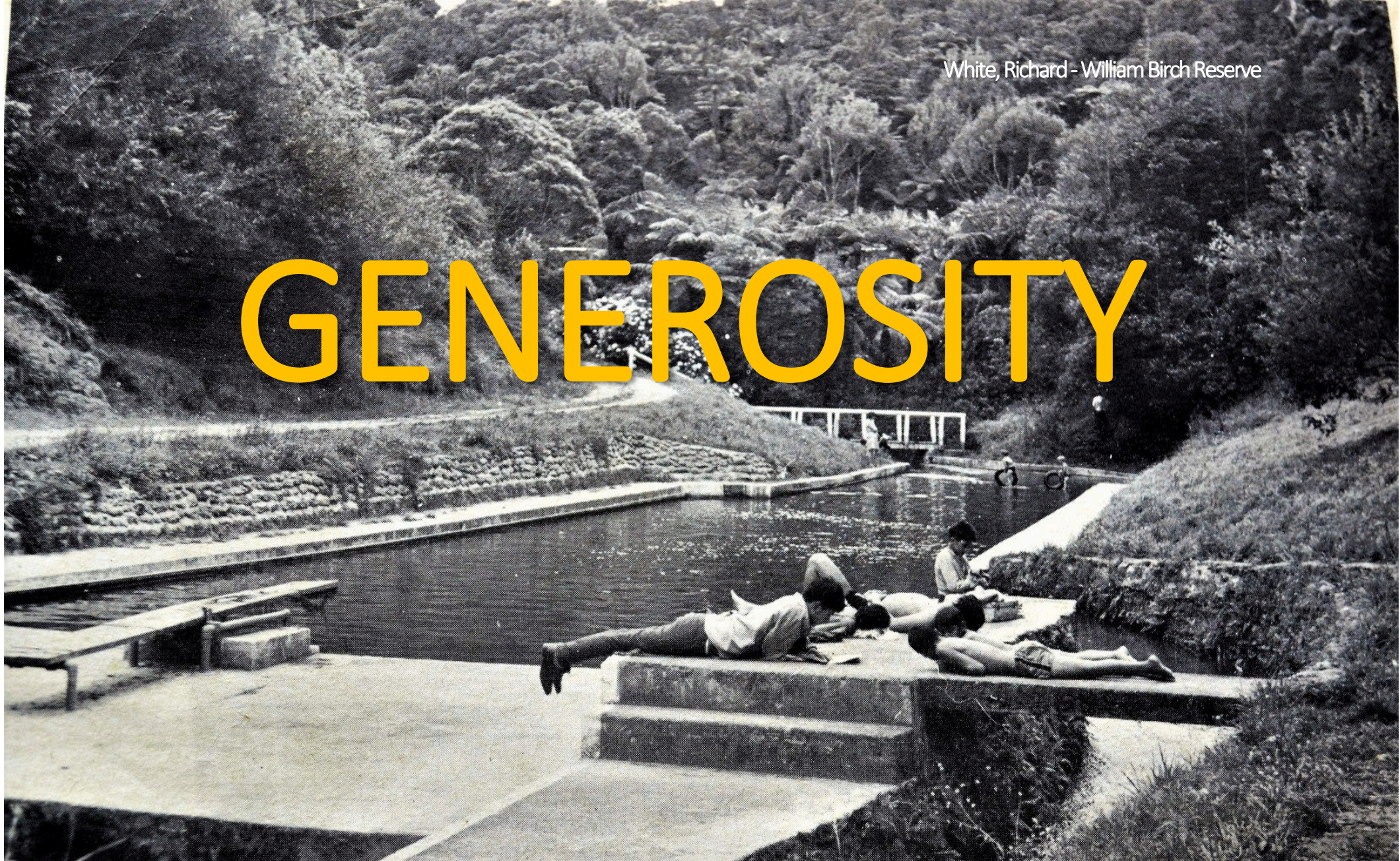
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businesses indicated they would visit the city centre more frequently if there were better transport options and/or improved public spaces.

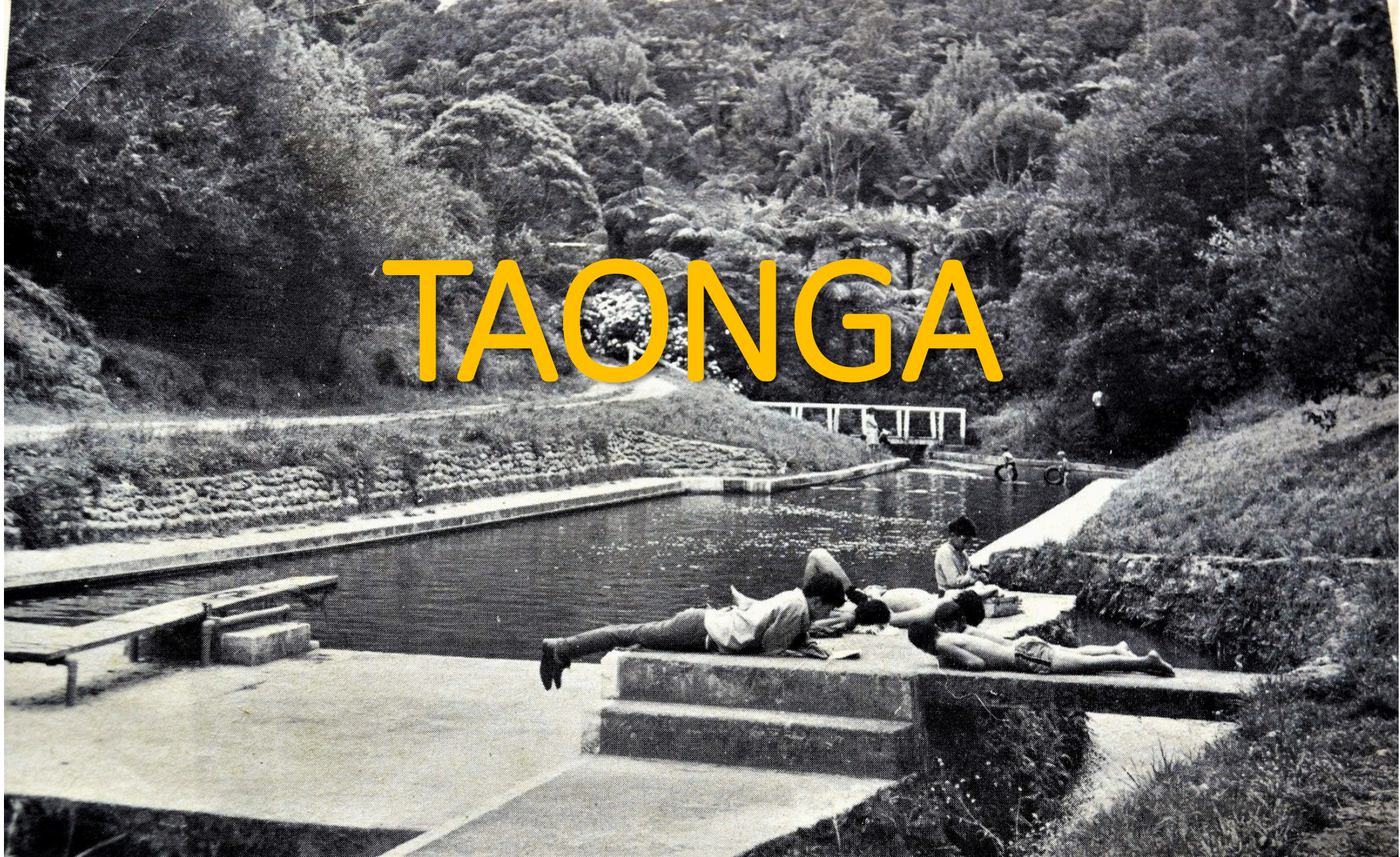


White, Richard - William Birch Reserve

GENEROSITY



TAONGA




RESPONSIBILITY



PARTNERSHIP





FUTURE

\$18,000 per annum:

\$15,000 Ground Maintenance

\$3,000 Pool Cleaning