

North Eastern Waikato

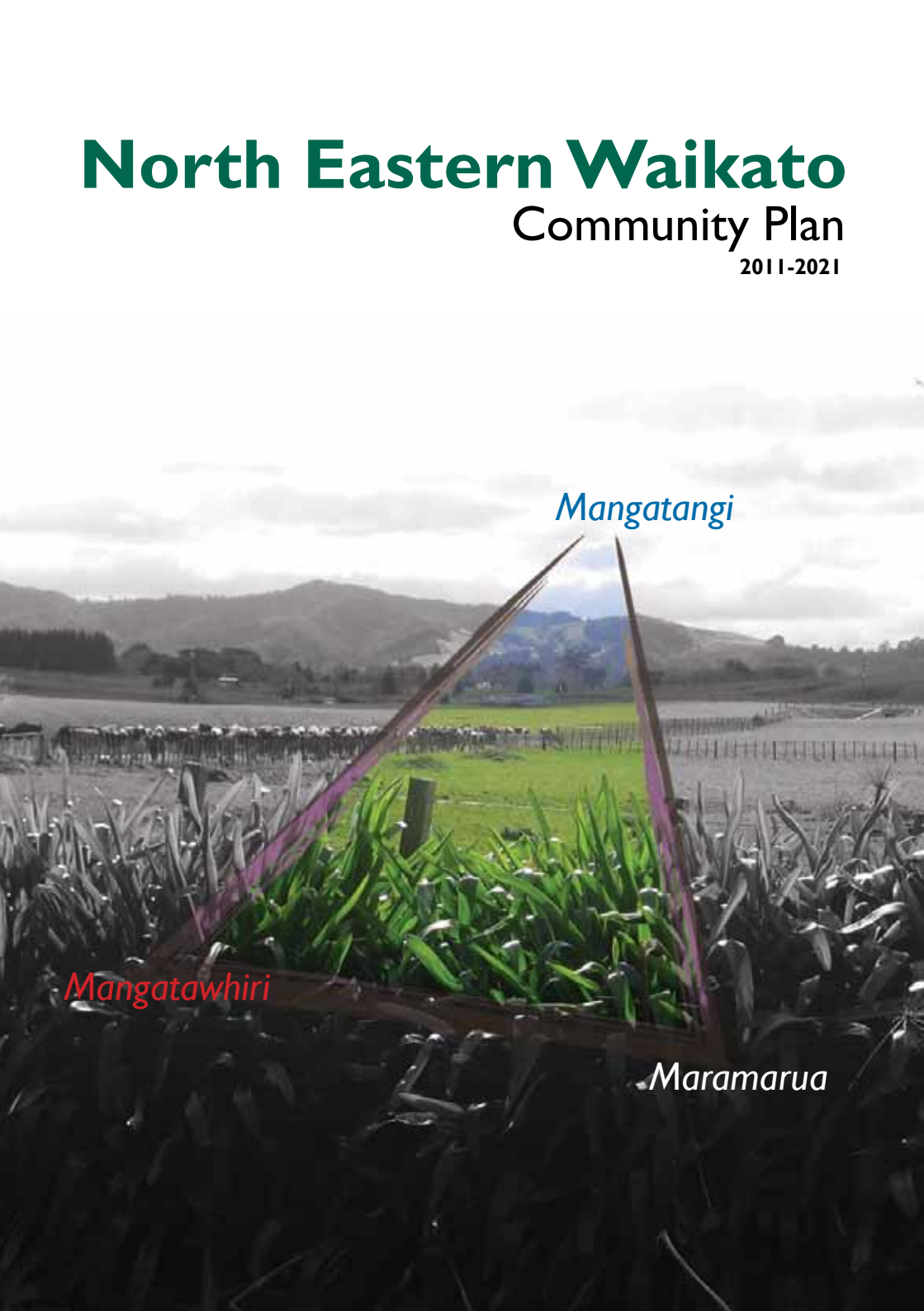
Community Plan

2011-2021

Mangatangi

Mangatawhiri

Maramarua



The NEW area



Vision

Close caring communities with pride and spirit

A safe haven with an eye towards the future

Preserving our heritage and remembering our past

A commitment to our youth as they are our future

A place where people grow

A place where resource-based businesses are supported and can thrive



Key Statistics

These figures are based on Census 2006 data held by Statistics New Zealand.

| | Maramarua | Mangatangi | Mangatawhiri | Waikato District | New Zealand |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Population | 1029 | 297 | 747 | 43,959 | 4,027,947 |
| Percentage aged under 15 years | 20.99% | 28.28% | 26.10% | 25.50% | 21.54% |
| Percentage aged over 65 years | 7.28% | 7.07% | 9.24% | 10.00% | 12.30% |
| Private dwellings | 366 | 99 | 258 | 15,090 | 1,471,746 |
| Ethnicity – Percentage of Maori | 13.90% | 16.16% | 7.23% | 25.85% | 14.65% |
| Post school qualifications | 29.12% | 29.58% | 31.52% | 44.80% | 46.18% |
| Unemployment rate | 1.74% | 4.69% | 3.11% | 3.54% | 3.37% |
| Median income | \$26,700 | \$23,200 | \$33,100 | \$25,700.00 | \$24,400.00 |

Maramarua history

Maramarua is a small village located in the middle of everywhere. It lies on State Highway Two - connecting Auckland to Tauranga and the Coromandel - and in the northern reaches of the Waikato District. If you tell someone you come from Maramarua, the general response is, “Where’s that?”, until you remind them of our local icons; The Red Fox Tavern, The Pink Pig Cafe and the Maramarua Golf Course, which most people seem to know.

There is some confusion over where the name ‘Maramarua’ comes from. One legend tells of a Maori chief, who visited the lake (which no longer exists) one night. He saw a secondary moon reflected on the lake’s calm, crystal water. Startled, he shouted “Maramarua!” Hence the name of the location became famous for its two moons: Marama – moon, Rua – two.



A second legend tells of two old Maori Chieftains called Mara, who were brothers. These men were much loved by their people and when they died, the place where they had lived was called Maramarua in their memory.



Waikarakia was the major Maori settlement in the area, with the direct descendants of Tamatira Totaia who came from Omahu, near Thames. Descendants of this family still live in the area and their ancestors are buried at the Waikarakia Cemetery, a registered family burial ground.

The first European settlers came to Maramarua in approximately 1869 and named the area Bridgewater, a name which only lasted a few years. Families were encouraged into the area and over the years Maramarua and the surrounding districts grew. The telephone was connected to the area in 1917 and the power in 1933. The main road was upgraded and the school, post office, community hall and Plunket rooms were established. Tea rooms and a butchery also serviced the local people.



Three local industries have been the backbone of Maramarua. Coal mining and farming were established in the early 1870s, and the Maramarua Forest was planted in 1927 which led to the Maramarua Mill opening in the early 1950s. These industries have, to a large extent, dictated the highs and lows of the population of Maramarua as whole villages were created to house the many workers. In 2011 mining and farming continue in the area, joined by a diverse range of other industries including piggeries, poultry farms, cafes, transport haulage, explosives, vets, service stations, quarries, orchards, clothing manufacturing, drilling, apiary and our iconic tavern.



Maramarua is a strong community with a wide range of clubs and associations. The Lions and Women's Institute both have a strong presence. The community is well looked after with the Maramarua Volunteer Rural Fire Force and St John First Response Unit, both based by the Community Hall.

Maramarua School provides a focus point for the community and is supported by the Maramarua-Kopuku Playcentre.

Sport is also well represented by the rugby club, golf club, squash club, karate, indoor bowls and teams and individuals representing and playing hockey, netball, horse riding, rowing, cycling and using the gym based at the Rugby Club. The Maramarua Forest regularly hosts car rallies and moto-cross rides.

Maramarua is also well known for the hunt club, which started in 1932. The Maramarua Hunt is still a renowned event on the hunting calendar, providing another iconic event for our village.

Maramarua really is in the middle of everywhere. Living here it's central to Hamilton and Auckland, Thames and Pukekohe, Te Kauwhata, Matamata



and Kaiawa. It's a wonderful little community that has a very caring heart. There's something here for everyone, and our residents, both long term and more recent come together for the good of the area. We look forward to the future and watching our village continue to grow.

M. Holtham



Mangatangi history

Mangatangi 'Rippling Stream' or 'Babbling Brook' that is its literal meaning.

Mangatangi is a farming community bounded on the north by the southern Hunua



Ranges, along the south-east by what was known as the Miranda Government Block, while the west bounds Mangatawhiri and Maramarua.

Pre- European occupation of our district by Maaori was extensive albeit sporadic. The marae or meeting house, 'Tamaoho' at Mangatangi has been in operation for 100 years. The marae has continued to develop and recently a whare kai (or dining room) has been built. The annual Pokai Day is held on 12 October each year.

There are some very good Pa sites around the area namely Tui Pa on Roulston's farm and others on Vining's, Taylor's and Vollebregt's. Our well-known Porcupine Hill or Whatarua did have some excellent store pits.

We also have three redoubts, the Miranda, Esk and Surrey. These fortifications were built to stop Maaori infiltrating behind the lines after the Waikato land wars in the 1860's.

Prior to the 1900's sawmillers came into the district and started cutting kauri from the virgin bush. 1915 saw the end of the kauri era but gum diggers were still around. There was also a flaxmill in operation.

Land was first taken up in the Mangatangi district in the 1860's by the Field-Porter family, an area of 10,000 acres. Early 1870's saw this land divided up. The Vining Bros arrived in 1871 after purchasing 3000 acres. Another block of over 2000 was sold to the Waller family. Mangatangi was still deemed to be out in the backblocks until the arrival of Mr George Stubbs and two partners who purchased 7,000 acres from local iwi and formed the Mangatangi Land Company. This was the start of organised development in Mangatangi. The land was divided into farming blocks, which were ring-fenced, with a house, a shed and a portion of grass.

From 1918 settlers started arriving to take up their land. Each milked a few cows by hand and slowly increased their stock, farming and prices were going well but the Post War boom was over, prices fell and Mangatangi succumbed to the slump days. Times started to improve for them only to have the depression of 1930s on their hands and like everyone else in the country, those that were able to weather this period were able to carry on, while others left their land. It was said that people gained a very real sense of values and understanding during this time.

A school was soon needed for the families of these settlers and one was opened in Dec 1919 with 13 pupils. Today it is the largest school in our area with a steady roll of over 100 pupils catering for many varied activities. The school is the centre of the community and still has the tradition of calf and lamb day, which is well supported, by the district.



Between 1931-35 most of the roads had been metalled and some farmers and relief gangs provided the labour. Up to this time dairying was the only industry but sheep farming was introduced. In the 1930s the government Small Farm

Settlement Scheme came into being and the bigger blocks of land were divided up, meaning more farmers were settled on the land.

The population growth provided impetus for a store and a garage. These were set up in 1936. Electricity came to the district in 1931 and this helped to improve the lives of the folk on the land. Gone were the candles, the smelly kerosene lamps and petrol engines for the milking sheds.

The war years came again and many of the men were sent overseas while others joined the Home Guard to defend the home front.

Trucking businesses for carrying stock, general goods and lime from Miranda were set up in the early 1930s. Mr Josh de Jongh's depot was situated on the Kaiaua Road and another truck depot started by Mr Pippin was down at the Mangatangi, Monument Rd and Miranda junction.



1952-53 saw a few changes. The Mangatangi Garage was sold to Mr J Davis and Bell-Booths took over the store. Mr Norm Frederiksen took over the school bus run and setup an engineering business.

The earliest Post Office and telephone exchange was situated in Bentley's house before a Post Office was built beside the hall around 1931. The telephone was operated from Hartmaan's house on Monument Rd for some time before an exchange was built beside the Fire Station and became Automatic in 1950s. Rural Delivery came in 1936.

The first hall was built in 1940 and in 1960 a new hall was built incorporating a Plunket Room and a Library.



Montana came into the area in 1968 and planted 450 acres of grapevines. The vines succumbed to the phylloxera and they closed the operation in 1984 and sold off the land. Many of the locals were employed by Montana particularly during the harvest season.

In 1972 we saw the formation of the Mangatangi Fire Party, progressing to a full fire brigade and is an important facility throughout our area. The Mangatangi Dam, which provides water for the Auckland area, was opened in 1977 and this lovely area is worth a visit.



Tennis has always been strong in Mangatangi since the courts were first built in 1948-49. Today we have three Astroturf courts adjacent to the school and they are used for hockey and netball practice. Mangatangi Tennis Club survives today with junior teams in interclub competitions.



The Kaiaua-Miranda Play Centre was formerly situated at Miranda but in May 2004 a new Play Centre was opened at Mangatangi and caters for all pre-schoolers in the area. Church had always been held in the hall but in July 2010 the congregation moved into their lovely building, the Christian Crossroads Centre.

Over the years farming methods have altered and diversification came in the 1980s, where we saw goat farming, rabbits, ostriches and horticulture including squash, onions and maize and bull farming introduced, but cattle and dairying are now the dominant farming pursuits. We have many lifestyle blocks and residents commute to Auckland and other urban centres to work.

Today Mangatangi is still a predominantly a rural settlement, proud of its past achievements and will continue to prosper.

Compiled by Kath Banks

Mangatawhiri history

Mangatawhiri is a farming district located 62 kilometres south of Auckland on the old Thames-Paeroa highway. Mangatawhiri translates as 'the stream where the tawhiri tree grows', and refers to the boundary between Maaori and Pakeha at the time of the land wars in 1863. General Cameron crossed the river in 1863 and declared war upon the Waikato tribes.

At the conclusion of the wars, land in this area was balloted for. Access to Mangatawhiri was along Valley Road, the settlers came over the hills from Drury via a track known as Happy Valley Road and now called Paparimu Road. The highway was not built until after the turn of the century and has just undergone change in 2010. With the realignment of State Highway 2, Mangatawhiri has been bypassed but still remains as an alternative route to the firth of Thames, and Coromandel.

The first white settler, Robert John Lyons, took up land on March 12, 1867, with his wife Margaret and son William. James Lyons now farms the family farm on Lyons Road and operates part of the sheep and beef farm as an organic dairy farm. The Lyons were soon followed by other families. These included the Reeds, whose Crown grant in August, 1867, was registered in 1868, and the Popes in the same year. Pope's Lagoon is known to many duck shooters and is on the original Pope property. Aloe Reed married Charles Pope and the family are in their seventh generation of farming today in the district.

The Keith, Mabey, McPherson, Pendergrast, Appleby, Twining, McIlroy, Motion, Caie and Parker families were all settled in the valley before the turn of the 19th century.

One of the first homesteads built of locally sourced pit sawn kauri in 1875 cost 189 pounds and the timber for its 2000 sq. ft area weighed 40 pounds. Several other houses were built of timber taken from the valley.

In the early 1890s one of the last Maaori war canoes was made from a kahikatea tree growing in the valley at a place known as Canoe Corner. Until 1980, Seacraft milled kauri trees from the surrounding bush in the valley and used these to make pleasure craft. Up until 2010, pine was milled at Twining Road and the timber was supplied to build Haines Hunter boats.

Much hard work was required by the settlers to clear the land and build roads. Many helped with road construction taking the metal from the Mangatawhiri River. Flax milling was an early industry, replaced by dairying and sheep as pastures were developed.

After the turn of the 19th century a dairy factory was built by the settlers on Keith's property and later moved to the new one on McKenzie's farm. Today, however milk is taken out of the valley by tanker. A lot of the sheep farms in Mangatawhiri have now converted to dairying and the size of the average dairy farm in Mangatawhiri has increased through farm amalgamations. Mangatawhiri has its own organic dairy factory where Green Valley Milk processes milk on-site to sell throughout the country. Marphona Farms is the largest organic dairy farm in Australasia holding AsureQuality full organic certification. Their Mangatawhiri farm also houses the dairy factory to produce top quality Green Valley milk products. There are also several farms supplying organic milk to Fonterra and milk is also supplied to Open Country Cheese dairy company.



The fertiliser bulk store Altum formally Summit Quinphos is situated on the new Mangatawhiri Road and supplies fertiliser to the local farmers. Twining Nurseries is located on Twining Road and supplies grown hedging in metre long bags to New Zealand markets.



Among the other early occupations were timber felling and gum digging, a marked contrast to today's industry of organic milk production, dairy farming engineering, chicken farming and hatching, and nursery growing.

The valley is served with a daily mail delivery from Pokeno. The nearest town to Mangatawhiri is Pukekohe where many of the residents go to shop and work. A number of the smaller farms in Mangatawhiri have been cut into smaller lifestyle blocks. Many of these residents commute to Auckland to work, and enjoy a rural lifestyle in Mangatawhiri.

The first school was held in the Lyons' homestead. As the population grew, Mr Robert J. Lyons gave land on the Valley Road corner for the school. The school

was moved across the river by traction engine to its present site on McKenzie Road in 1925. A new school was built in 1962 and is a strong focus point for the community today. The school celebrated its 125 year reunion in 2003 and a book on the history of Mangatawhiri School and its district was written by Donnelle Hamilton.



The Mangatawhiri Hall was burnt down by a mystery fire in 1961 and was rebuilt in 1962. 2012 will mark 50 years of the hall's popular existence. The preschool is held in the hall three times a week and has a thriving roll. Many other groups also use the hall for their events.



When people ask for directions to Mangatawhiri, the locals will often use The Mangatawhiri Castle as a point of reference, well known for its large ice-creams. The castle was built by Mr Banner around the original Mangatawhiri Store of 1934. It features pictures of Snow White and the seven dwarfs on the outside and medieval paintings on the inside of the turrets. Today with the bypass of the highway, the castle has closed down. The petrol station opposite is now a dairy servicing the local area.



Mangatawhiri has undergone change over the years and the new by-pass has challenged the area. However Mangatawhiri will maintain its strong community spirit, a legacy of its rural roots.

Excerpts have been taken from the Mangatawhiri Valley Centennial Celebrations booklet of 1967 for parts of this writing.

SYoung

A plan for North Eastern Waikato

What will this plan achieve?

Your North Eastern Waikato Community Plan is the vehicle for community discussion, on which future outcomes for the area can be determined.

The views expressed here will be taken into account when Waikato District Council undertakes more detailed consultation on specific topics.

It is important to remember, this is not a council plan.

Your community plan is a collection of ideas for action. It is a priority list of desired works and activities that have been identified.

As well as focusing community debate and getting people involved in the future of their community, the plan will help influence Waikato District Council's programme of works during its annual and long-term planning processes.

A number of the issues raised are not the council's responsibility but the council will work with the community and the North Eastern Waikato Community Committee to advocate and facilitate the process.

Link to Community Outcomes

Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils are required to facilitate the identification of, and report on the achievement towards **Community Outcomes** for their residents. Having consulted with the Waikato District community, the following Community Outcomes have been identified:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Accessible Waikato | A district where the community's access to infrastructure, transport and technology meets its needs. |
| Sustainable Waikato | A district where growth is effectively managed and natural resources are protected, developed and enhanced for future generations. |
| Thriving Waikato | A district that prides itself on economic excellence and where heritage and culture are protected and celebrated. |
| Healthy Waikato | A district with services and activities that promote a healthy community. |
| Safe Waikato | A district where people feel safe and supported within their communities. |

Key Issues and Projects

The following key issues and projects are consistent with the Council's five Community Outcomes. Following the public consultation and based on the feedback we received the North Eastern Waikato Community Committee will prioritise the issues and projects.

Specific issues and projects

The North Eastern Waikato Community Committee has identified the following key issues and projects:

Environment - links to Sustainable , Healthy and Safe Waikato:

- Clean culverts and drains
- Address flooding issues
- Clean all waterways
- Beautification – more planting and maintenance
- Green waste facility



Road safety - links to Accessible and Safe Waikato:

- The schools need improved signage for warning of proximity and to reduce speed
- Improve road, safety and visibility near the schools



- Safe pedestrian crossing near the schools
- Bus shelters for school children
- Maintain tidy roadsides
- Upgrade street lighting
- Upgrade and maintain footpaths
 - Main road in Maramarua from Mobil Garage to the Red Fox
- Seal Fire Station car park
- Improved parking area at community halls
- Review speed limits in and around the area
- Review road safety due to increasing traffic levels
- Traffic calming measures need to be put in place to control traffic movement and speed
- Liaise with the Police to monitor speeds
- Install emergency traffic control
- Improve visibility on Monument Road/State Highway 2 intersection due to obstructions of signage
- 'No parking' sign at top of Maxwell Road opposite the Pink Pig.

Transport/Roading - links to Accessible, Safe, Sustainable and Thriving Waikato:

- Communication and consultation with New Zealand Transport Agency on future development
- Widen road and trim trees at Garage Services
- Roadsides need to be regularly mown
- Tarseal Ferndale Road and other metal roads
- Upgrade kerb and channel
- 'No engine braking' signs at both ends of Maramarua
- Check and repair all bridges and culverts
- On/off ramps around the expressways
- Welcome signage
- Full diamond at the intersections - Monument Road and Maxwell Road
- Development of Maxwell Road / State Highway 2 intersection
- Median strip along the whole of the 70kph zone and the zone to be extended
- Investigate warning signs for side roads



Recreation Facilities - links to Healthy, Accesible and Thriving Waikato:

- Create walkways in future developments
- Public park on State Highway Two
- Playground
- Picnic/barbeque area
- Skateboard ramp
- Minigolf
- Toilets
- Upgrade rest areas
- Upgrade and maintain the swimming pool for the community
- New library service
- Upgrade rugby club facilities



Social - links to Sustainable, Healthy and Safe Waikato:

- Ensure general upkeep and tidiness of the area
- Address any graffiti problems.

Community Development - links to Sustainable, Thriving, Healthy, Accessible and Safe Waikato:

- Support and development of local businesses
- Consultant to assess further business potential
- Improved service centre
- Protection of existing resource based business from incompatible land uses and land use activities
- Update the History
- Promote the area and look at the development of community events
- Recognition of the heritage of the area including cultural significance
- Work with Solid Energy for end result for the mine
- Update of Civil Defence plans for the area
- Support emergency services
- The council to support social agencies which benefit the community
- Liaise with Glen Coal Energy Ltd. regarding platforms in wetlands

Subdivision - links to Accessible, Thriving and Sustainable Waikato:

- Structure Plan in place for future subdivision
- Improved zoning
- Work with New Zealand Transport Agency to support growth

Where to From Here?

The next steps

This community plan was developed by the North Eastern Waikato Community Committee and is their aspiration for the future. It does not reflect the Waikato District Council's priorities or funding availability.

The committee will continue to work with the council to communicate any issues and advance on approved projects.

Please contact North Eastern Waikato Community Committee or Waikato District Council if you would like further information.



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