



HE AHA RĀ NGĀ WHĀINGA MATUA?

WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

Ideas from the community to inform
the Palmerston North City Council
2024-2034 Long Term Plan



TRAIL MIX 2022

art TRAIL MANAWATU
SHOWCASE



Foreword from Rangitāne o Manawatū

The Treaty relationship between the Council and Rangitāne o Manawatū is founded in Rangitānenuirawa and is essential to the long-term future and wellbeing of the Palmerston North community.

A partnership agreement was signed in 2019. This ensures that Rangitāne values and perspectives have significant weight in decision making, as Council works towards becoming a Te Tiriti-led city. Through this partnership, Council gains a better understanding of the views and needs of Māori as, together, we set out to deliver the aspirations of a multicultural city.

Rangitāne are already working alongside the Council through all stages of the Long Term Plan to ensure a considered and meaningful role throughout the process. This publication, *He aha rā ngā whāinga matua? What really matters?* provides the Council with a valuable insight into the values and goals of sector-lead organisations in Palmerston North, and of students in our city. We encourage the Council to continue talking with these groups throughout the planning process. Their views will contribute to a thoughtful and considered Long Term Plan.



Introduction

The 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

The purpose of local government is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community. Every three years the Local Government Act requires Palmerston North City Council to develop a new Long Term Plan (LTP). The 2024-34 Long Term Plan will reflect the agreements reached by our Mayor and Councillors about their shared vision for the city. This decision-making process will be made in a wider context, including:

- What's going on in Palmerston North
- Community expectations and aspirations
- Legislative requirements
- The state of the Council's finances

This publication

Immediately following the 2022 council election, sector lead organisations were invited to suggest the issues elected members should be thinking about as they start to plan. At the same time, Massey University students Tatyana Kooznetzoff and Leearna Amos were commissioned to gather views from Palmerston North young people through two separate targeted research projects.

This publication gathers the views from all these contributors into one resource that our Council will be able to reflect on, and respond to, throughout the LTP process. We look forward to ongoing conversations about the best ways to improve the wellbeing of our city.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to all those who contributed so enthusiastically to the development of this valuable resource.

Rangitāne o Manawatū

Creative Sounds Society Inc – The Stomach

Disability Reference Group

Environment Network Manawatū

Palmerston North Heritage Trust and Historic Places Manawatū Horowhenua

Housing Advice Centre and Manawatū Tenants Union

MaLGRA

Manawatū Business Chamber

Manawatū Multicultural Council

Pasifika Reference Group

Seniors' Reference Group

Sport Manawatū

Square Edge Community Arts

Te Pū Harakeke Community Collective Manawatū

Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance

Prof Richard Shaw, Leearna Amos and Tatyana Kooznetzoff from the School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University



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A group of young women are seen from behind, wearing gold sequined tops and denim shorts, dancing at an outdoor event. They are raising their hands in the air. The background is a blurred crowd of people and greenery under a bright sky.

Part one: Sector lead organisations

Creative Sounds Society Inc – The Stomach

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts and contribute to the development of Council's next ten-year plan. We have endeavoured to keep our ideas brief so that they're easily digested (forgive the pun).

About us

Creative Sounds Society Inc (CSSI) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the encouragement of creative musical, artistic, and performance activities. We run an all-ages venue, recording studio and rehearsal spaces known as The Stomach in Palmerston North. Accessibility and affordability are key priorities of Creative Sounds Society. We strive to ensure that all people are able to meaningfully access and engage with musical creativity, regardless of their ability or circumstances. Since 1988 our musical community has worked with the direct support of PNCC to develop and operate Aotearoa New Zealand's leading (and longest-standing) all-ages community music venue and facilities. CSSI has a multi-year Sector Lead agreement with PNCC and rents our premises at 84 Lombard St from PNCC. Together we have invested in improvements, including a rebuild in 2008-2009, that support our activities.

Summary of our considerations for the ten-year plan

Wellbeing: Music and creative arts are integral aspect of the social fabric of Palmerston North. These are essential to our individual and collective wellbeing. They are ways that people of all backgrounds can interact and express our collective and individual identities and culture. The creative arts and self-expression enrich our community.

Young people: It's important that young people have opportunities to actively participate in and experience arts activities. Through these activities they build their confidence, interact with diverse people and perspectives, and build meaningful connections that positively support their growth into adulthood.

Accessibility: Funding supports accessibility to arts and cultural activities. Our city has excellent sporting and recreational amenities. Arts (especially music), and cultural activities rely on similar support from local government to ensure that our community has access to fit-for-purpose arts venues, facilities, resources, and support.

Funding: Financial security for community arts organisations enables us to thrive, build meaningful connections in the community and between organisations. In the past, periods of funding uncertainty have undermined years of organisational capacity building and community building activities. Arts organisations often occupy a precarious existence, operating on a not-for-profit and for-purpose basis which enables our community to participate and engage in arts and music activities. These organisations return enormous value to our community at comparatively very low cost. Ongoing, stable financial support for these organisations enables them to thrive and achieve meaningful community outcomes.

High value proposition: Community arts and music organisations are high value propositions. They are built on the passion of individuals who share specialised skills and experience to enrich our community. These organisations positively impact a wide cross-section of our community.

As community organisations we are the flax-roots, interacting daily with our community, responding to their needs. Despite the tight margins in our sector, we achieve these outcomes through extremely careful budget management and a strong DIY ethos. We get things done for far less than the commercial sector by drawing on our skill sets, our volunteers and the passion of our people.

CPI adjustment: We strongly support CPI adjustment for funding. CPI adjustment was introduced during the previous round of strategic priority grant funding and is important because it ensures that the real-world value of PNCC's funding doesn't deteriorate throughout the duration of the funding agreement. We think that PNCC should also consider increasing the overall pool of funding available to community and arts organisations to reflect the increasing costs of operation and staffing for our sector between funding rounds.

Funding maintenance: Ensuring there is sufficient funding for the ongoing maintenance of PNCC owned facilities is important to their long-term viability. We are aware that there is significant expense on the horizon due to the requirement to undertake earthquake strengthening on some of PNCC's buildings. We encourage PNCC to consider ongoing funding to ensure appropriate maintenance of PNCC owned arts facilities. This was given consideration at the last ten year plan and we were pleased to see the allocation of funds to general maintenance for key council and community assets.

Agent of change principle: Existing uses and noise emissions will be contested by commercial and residential development in the city. While we are generally in support of development we encourage PNCC to learn from the inaction of other cities (recent examples include Auckland and Dunedin) and act now to adequately plan for and protect music, arts, cultural, entertainment, and other nightlife activities in the city. The agent of change principle has been implemented in reputable arts and cultural cities such as Melbourne as a means of mitigating issues caused by development in the city. The agent of change principle works by requiring that developers (the agent of change) ensure they provide noise-proofing and acoustic treatment

to ensure that any developments don't conflict with or undermine existing uses such as music venues, concerts, nightlife and other entertainment amenities. PNCC should take the opportunity to address these issues now before future residential and commercial development results in contested spaces in the city. PNCC has worked hard to support Palmerston North's arts, cultural, and entertainment activities ongoing planning, initiatives, and support. These activities contribute greatly to the wellbeing of our community and they enrich the lived experiences of our residents.

Reference and further reading:

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Disability Reference Group

As Council embarks on planning for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, the Disability Reference Group would like councillors to enhance the lives of the disability community in the city.

One of the DRG's key focus areas for next year and beyond is to advocate and participate in transforming the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) principles.

We would request of Council that they support turning the EGL principles into reality by ensuring they are embedded in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan and are resourced appropriately.

In November 2020, Council acknowledged the EGL principles and sought to integrate them into Council's daily activities.

The DRG has a vision for the future:

- Council is known and seen to be carrying out these principles within the country and further afield.
- Council staff across the organisation understand the principles and they are an automatic consideration in everything Council does.

Principles – Enabling Good Lives

The vision of the Enabling Good Lives approach is that in the future, disabled adults, children and their families will have greater choice and control over their lives, and how they are supported. The delivery of the new EGL disability support system is based on the following eight principles:

- 1. Self-determination:** Disabled people are in control of their lives.
- 2. Beginning early:** Invest early in families and whānau to support them; to be aspirational for their disabled child; to build community and natural supports; and to support disabled children to become independent, rather than waiting for a crisis before support is available.
- 3. Person-centred:** Disabled people have supports that are tailored to their individual needs and goals, and that take a whole life approach rather than being split across programmes.
- 4. Ordinary life outcomes:** Disabled people are supported to live an everyday life in everyday places; and are regarded as citizens with opportunities for learning, employment, having a home and family, and social participation - like others at similar stages of life.
- 5. Mainstream first:** Disabled people are supported to access mainstream services before specialist disability services.
- 6. Mana enhancing:** The abilities and contributions of disabled people and their families are recognised and respected.
- 7. Easy to use:** Disabled people have supports that are simple to use and flexible.
- 8. Relationship building:** Supports build and strengthen relationships between disabled people, their whānau and community.



Environment Network Manawatū

ENM challenges Palmerston North City Council to go to the next level in meeting their Eco City goals and envisions the following actions being included as part of the 2024-34 LTP:

The establishment of an Environment Centre

In 2020, PNCC passed a motion in its inaugural Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting to support the creation of an Envirohub/ Eco-city hub for the Environment Sector. This support so far has focussed on incorporating an Environment Centre into the Civic and Cultural Precinct Masterplan, which is valued by the network, but is a very long-term approach. ENM has made its own progress towards a well-functioning Environment Centre, with the move to a visible, ground floor location, but more could be achieved with a well-designed and appointed property to support the community and city in environmental aspirations. Such a centre could also be part of the UNESCO Geopark for Te Āpiti-Manawatū Gorge which is also gaining increased traction.

We support a shorter-term approach in creating a fully functioning, inspirational Environment Centre and a prompt start to:

- Hub design and the identification of a suitable piece of land for the centre; Ideally this land should be Council-owned and made available at an affordable long-term lease.

- Council contribution of \$250k in co-funding the development of the Environment Centre in year 2 of the plan to allow ENM to leverage this funding for further applications to Lotteries, ECCT and other suitable funders. We feel the value that contribution and efforts made by ENM and its member groups over the past decade warrants this investment in our future in a shorter time frame.

We encourage the council to create strong environmentally focused plans for the future of Palmerston North, even if the resourcing doesn't immediately seem possible. There is increased international, governmental, business and individual interest in mitigation of climate change, reduction of waste, sustainable/regenerative growth, care of the earth, care of people and restoring natural ecosystems. With this interest, major resourcing opportunities will arise. The dream of how our city hopes to respond to these challenges needs to be established prior to the resourcing opportunities arising to take full advantage of them.

Increased interest and engagement in developing a city-wide Food Resilience and Food Security Policy:

- A fully developed and implemented City-wide Food Resilience Policy that aims to mitigate food insecurity. This action will allow the recognition of this as a pertinent, pressing issue (particularly in relation to child poverty, where the MOE is currently failing AND creating food waste linked to the Healthy School Lunch Programme) and will enable corresponding actions and initiatives to be executed with speed and ease.

- Increased focus on the implementation of and support for current and potential community gardens to ensure people have access to healthy locally produced kai within our neighbourhoods.
- The implementation of localized community composting systems (with community access to the compost) and the city-wide collection of household food waste to a council operated compost facility. There is a national push from the government to reduce food waste to landfill and we would like to see PNCC being proactive over reactive in this space. We advocate for household food waste collection to have its own, separate, for-purpose area, separate from landfill to allow the conversion of this waste from an emissions liability to a reusable asset.

Continued and increased commitment to mitigating Palmerston North's contribution to Climate Change:

- Tangible commitments and actions actively reducing city contributions to climate change, while developing strategies to prepare for the anticipated effects of climate change upon our environment and people. Ambitious targets need to be set for the reduction of CO2 emissions linking to the promotion of active transport, accessible public transport systems, waste minimisation, and resource recovery.
- Putting in place strategies that prepare for the effects of climate change, such as development of a city-wide food resilience policy, increasing cycling infrastructure and undertaking behaviour change programmes, composting food waste, farming the power of the sun from our rooftops.

The recognition of promotion of local biodiversity:

- The recognition, promotion and support of pest control projects, such as the Ruahine Kiwi Project, the Ruahine Whio Protection Trust, the removal of pest weeds like Old Mans' Beard or Phragmites Karka and the benefits of these for our environment and region.

- We encourage Council to continue its investment in Green Corridors throughout the city to enhance biodiversity and offset the ecological impact of new housing developments and providing obvious aesthetic and recreational benefits.

The continued regeneration and prioritizing of the Manawatū River, its streams, and its drains as an important local, cultural and environmental asset:

- Increased programmes, education, infrastructure and investment in ensuring a significant reduction in plastic and litter entering local waterways.
- Recognition of the need for a dedicated staff member to monitor and manage the litter and plastic pollution in urban streams and waterways supported by PNCC
- Increased artworks, signage depicting educational or historical information, accessibility and overall beatification of urban streams and waterways.

Continued investment in sustainable and active transport:

- A fully developed, safe and family friendly cycling infrastructure for our city paired with widespread corresponding behaviour change education and incentives linked to increasing sustainable transport (free bikes for kids, for example).
- An increase in accessible, frequent transport connections (bus, train) and the promotion/centralization of carpooling initiatives possibly in collaboration with local businesses. These would reduce car use and car related expenses and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Linked accessibility to and from the train station to enable greater use of this.
- The allocation of parking spaces including Council parking lots within the CBD to be addressed (reduced) accordingly with the rise in public transport uptake to enhance public spaces and reduce pollution levels, both to air and ear.

- Cycle lanes are currently discontinuous and often require people on bikes to swerve into traffic when cars are parked in the space usually used for riding (for example on Te Awe Awe Street, amongst others). Investigation and consultation will be undertaken first to determine how to better link the existing cycle lanes, with construction following likely in year 3.

Meeting our commitments as an Eco-city.

- Exceeding targets at every opportunity, especially around the 30% City CO2 reductions which should be more ambitious.
- Increased collaboration in campaigns to showcase and promote sustainable practices in housing, gardening, energy efficiency, 3-waters efficiency, permaculture design, waste-free living, new technologies and environmental education. Tangible goals to achieve sustainability would be agreed for each campaign in consultation with Council.

- Increased accountability and accessibility for businesses to have commercial recycling and organic waste collection to increase resource recovery rates.
- Public recycling bins to be introduced next to public litter bins to increase public opportunities for resource recovery.
- Implementation of a soft plastics recycling scheme accessible by public and businesses across Palmerston North.

Many decisions that are made from primarily economic, social or cultural viewpoints often have detrimental environmental impacts. Without a healthy living environment, we simply don't have life. The two are fundamentally interconnected and inter-twined. Therefore, we would encourage Council to ensure that an environmental and ecological lens is placed over all of its decisions to ensure they are truly sustainable.



Palmerston North Heritage Trust and Historic Places Manawatū Horowhenua

“History is to the community what memory is to the individual” – to paraphrase British historian Arthur Marwick.

Buildings

History and heritage did not fare well in Palmerston North prior to the twenty-first century. The city is not known for its heritage buildings. Heritage buildings are generally ‘pepper-potted’ throughout the city rather than being in precincts of like style (Savage Crescent is an exception).

Many old buildings have been lost and others which remain, even in the city centre, continue to be under threat. Our heritage housing has been picked off by being moved out of the city or through the subdivision of sections. Our public and commercial buildings have faced demolition by neglect.

The Regent Theatre preservation campaign of 1995 was a high point of community activism on this front. But many prominent public buildings were made of locally-produced bricks, and the ever more rigorous requirements for earthquake strengthening have undermined advocacy groups seeking to promote their retention and restoration.

The Square: There is a core cluster of heritage buildings around, or close to The Square which it is vital to retain:

- The Old Post Office, or, at least, its façade, appears to have been saved for future development.
- The Grand Hotel.
- Square Edge, the former council building.
- All Saints Church, a vital part of the city’s ‘memoryscape’, but one which has faced conflicting views around what should be its exterior presentation.
- The 1938 Ansett building, better known to many as the ‘T&G’ Building is in a disgraceful state of demolition by neglect. A major problem for the city and for PNCC given its (apparently intransigent?) private ownership.

➤ Te Marae o Hine itself, and its several bicultural historical reference points: The Te Peeti Te Awe statue, the Hopwood Clock Tower and Kerei Te Panau chimes, the war memorial, the Coronation Fountain, the ‘Ladies Rest’ art deco building, and the Rangitāne ancestral carvings. There have been some excellent guided walks through and around The Square but here, as in other parts of the city, there could be more permanent interpretive signage.

Elsewhere there is **Caccia Birch**, a gracious and well-used venue for events and meetings which is now under the administration of PNCC. Caccia Birch represents the ‘grand old home’ aspect of built heritage. At the other end we should not forget the more quirky heritage features of the city such as the concrete log fences seen in some residential streets. Historic trees have an importance of their own.

Working class history is associated with the Savage Crescent heritage precinct, but the Milson railway houses lost out in past debates about heritage priorities. Some have been shifted from their sites.

Industrial history is represented by the Hoffman Brick Kiln and by the old Power Station at Terrace End. Both are supported by a small but hardworking group of volunteers. PNCC support for the efforts of these workers will hopefully continue as projects develop.

Modern/modernist buildings: Attention needs to be paid to more recent buildings, of historical and architectural merit, residential and commercial, especially those of modernist architects such as Bernard Cox. If they are not recognised and evaluated now, they are likely to be lost to future generations. There have been three significant precincts of Brutalist buildings – in the central city, at Massey University, and at the former Teachers’ College site, the latter now being demolished because of insufficient public interest.

Rangitāne sites: Good progress has been made in identifying and interpreting Rangitāne sites of significance, especially those along the awa, and citizens interested in history and heritage look forward to the development of Te Motu o Poutoa as a site of significance.

Military heritage: War commemorations and a strong advocacy group have resulted in the city’s military heritage being well signalled through ‘poppy places’ signage and the re-invigoration of Memorial Park as a Second World War memorial, for example.

Railway heritage: It may now be time to put equivalent effort into identifying and interpreting other aspects of Palmerston North’s past. It is extraordinary that apart from casual reference to the ‘old railway land’ and the more recent installation of a set of wheels on that land, there is relatively little interpretive material showing the importance of the railway and other forms of transport to Palmerston North’s growth and significance over time. A historical narrative around the railway could point to the location of its stations, workshops and supporting activities. The social history of the railway might include the workforce (including Māori who worked on the line), industrial relations, accidents, and such basics as the impact of the railway on Palmerston North’s layout, as well as the fires, dirt and steam associated with it. The history of the railway could be an important underpinning of the proposed Cultural Precinct, when and if it eventuates.

Overall, we are missing opportunities to tell our stories in permanent and appropriate ways across the city, however that is done.

(The re-development of Cuba Street is a case in point.) When this happens it is important that the material is accurate and robust – concerns were expressed at a 2022 meeting of history groups about the lack of consultation on the appropriate placement, quality and nature of historical/cultural/artistic narratives in public space in Palmerston North – for information relating to iwi and non-iwi. Signage stays in place for decades, and it is important to get it right by drawing upon existing expertise in the community.

Written and digital history

The Heritage section of the City Library is the history research hub of Palmerston North. It has built up a very good reputation over the years, largely because of the helpfulness and accessibility of the staff. This enables access to the splendid paper and digital resources of which they are custodians. PNCC is to be congratulated for supporting a community archive alongside statutory materials. Initiatives such as Local History Week have been important in bringing Palmerston North’s history to a wider audience.

Issues which come up in discussion here are:

- The need to ensure adequate and on-going storage for the archives. (Not glamorous, but vital – these resources seed reputable historical research for the future!).
- The strong desirability of a dedicated City Archivist to provide leadership in this area. There appears to be nobody in a senior and authoritative role in archives, undermining the importance of our statutory and community records and, equally importantly, the ability to gather them in before destruction.
- Some consider that Te Manawa’s Archives could be combined with the community and local body archives, including the pictorial resources.
- Manawatū Heritage is proving to be an invaluable resource, and has been used in significant national histories, thus foregrounding the people and places of the Manawatū to a wider audience. But it too needs resourcing if new material, pictorial, oral and archival, is able to be added and fact-checked before being uploaded.



Square Edge [2018], Tom Turner

The New Primary School History Syllabus and potential to introduce young people to Palmerston North's past

Toi Warbrick and some voluntary groups such as local genealogists have been working with individual schools, mainly with teachers, on material which would support teaching local stories as part of the new syllabus. Manawatū Heritage is likely to be a great help, especially if it could host curated folders of materials showing how the broader themes covered in the syllabus were played out in a Manawatū context. There is a need for greater coordination here.

The volunteers who engage with Palmerston North's past

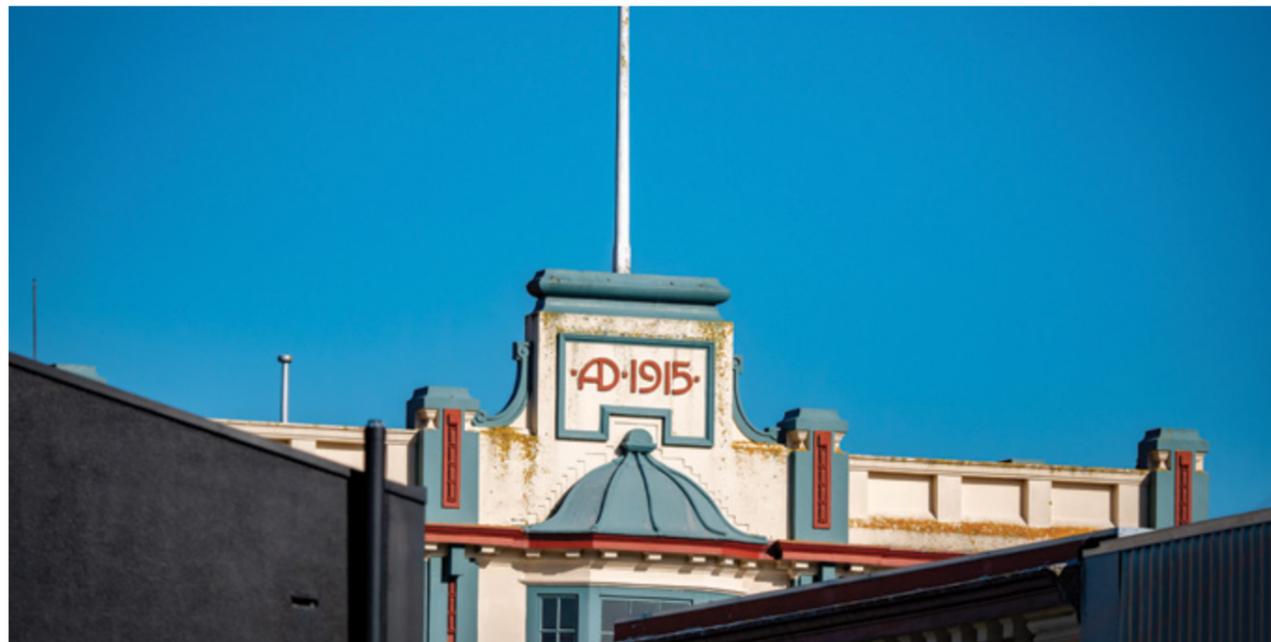
Heritage groups through the city focus have their own special foci.

There are groups which take a general interest in *heritage sites*; others which provide *support for individual buildings* such as the Regent Theatre and the Hoffman Kiln; others again which *support institutions* such as Te Manawa which are custodians of heritage items. Some *promote public awareness* of the Manawatū's past through public lectures (e.g. the History group associated with U3A)

or through *research and publication* (the Manawatū Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists and the *Manawatū Journal of History*). The Palmerston North Heritage Trust was originally constituted to promote the *retention of archives*, but since its reinvigoration in 2002, has operated more broadly to foster research and acknowledge researchers. There has been a strong *military heritage group* which has managed to gain PNCC representation on its committee. *Rangitāne* have their own mechanisms for highlighting mana whenua's own distinctive history and relationships with later arrivals to the Manawatū.

An annual heritage statement which draws these various threads of activity together in a Council report would help give an overview of efforts which often go under the radar at a political and administrative level, and highlight citizen involvement in heritage

The Palmerston North Heritage Trust hosts an annual meeting which draws representatives of some of these groups together, along with library staff and archivists. The involvement of city planners would be an excellent development. There is a need for more consultation with heritage groups and a recognition by PNCC staff of the expertise among volunteers.



Housing Advice Centre and Manawatū Tenants Union

Social Housing – “Care of the community – For our community”

- Change the language from “Social Housing” to “Affordable Accessible Housing”.
- Consider PNCC Social Housing options for 4-to-5-bedroom homes.
- Consents to be made easier for larger homes to encourage new builds.
- Consents and requirements based on accessible housing for all builds e.g., 900 mm wide doors.
- Social Housing needs to stay 25% income as this helps with the cost-of-living issue. Could this go up to 30%?
- MSD: can we get a social worker visiting every occupant in emergency housing asking what help is needed and supporting referrals. This would reduce concerning behaviour of residents and help them to move on into long term accommodation.
- Ready to Rent style presentation in emergency housing. HAC going to the clients and encouraging change.
- Green spaces that have kids play area, fruit trees, shelter. These to be around buildings, apartments to provide an additional food source and tenant interaction. Has positive benefits for soil drainage problems. Sow lawns that do not have to be mowed, short growing and resilient varieties to minimise work and encourage bees.
- All PNCC social houses to be accessible to start with, not just some of them, minimises the cost for later adjustments, allows for more flexible tenancies. Limits the cost of changes later.
- Council to continue social housing, protection for community housing.
- Community gardens, transfer of skills, food source.
- Council has more homes available but managed by community organisation e.g., Mash Trust, partner with more organisations -this could be used to support those who are independent but need regular supports to maintain sustainable tenancies and lifestyles.
- Homeless, night shelters, facilities to support for showering, washing clothes, social work support, facilitate and encourage safe living.

Consent and resource management

- Regarding consents for building to allow change of purpose and new builds to accommodate emergency and transitional housing. Promote moving away from Motels/hotel currently used.
- Emergency and Transitional housing, council owned but leased to agencies, allows for wrap around services to be available for mental health, disability etc needs in residents.
- Building code adjusted to allow and encourage new build to be to disability standards, eg wet bathrooms, wider access, ramps or easy to fit with ramps
- Laundry in cupboard in kitchen or bathroom- taking away from separate laundry rooms. More space in house
- Selling rights to live in apartment as per hub
- Marae type housing on iwi land, resource consent for multiple builds
- Space for cabins/granny flats on community housing sections, may be removable if required
- Consents for converted garages, encourage safe extra housing
- Building code changes to allow for accessible housing

Housing affordability

- Rates increase as well as mortgage increase are being passed on to tenants and contributes to making housing unaffordable.
- We are currently seeing 3–4-bedroom houses with a yard being pulled down and replaced with multiple 1-to-2-bedroom homes on the same property. This may create a negative in terms of housing availability for those with a bigger family. Losing 1x 4-bedroom housing 4 – 6 people replaced with 3 x 1–2-bedroom houses homing 3-6 people results in loss of accommodation for larger families.
- Cooperative housing communities cheaper for first home buyers.
- Cohabitation housing/communal living, as per Denmark/Norway -This is similar to what Home in Place have going on with a very definite shared outdoor space within the boundaries of the housing spaces that are not included. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cohousing#:~:text=Cohousing%20is%20an%20intentional%20community,amenities%2C%20including%20a%20private%20kitchen.>

Living requirements for all size families

- Cultural awareness of the needs for larger and extended family living to be taken into account.
- Larger homes to house multi-generational housing, grandparents living with family.
- Most of the new builds we are seeing are smaller houses. While there is a need, remembering that families may not want to live in city centres or apartment blocks.
- Creating a consent that allows a removable cabin/tiny home to be placed on a property that has yard space- knowing that there must be a certain amount of uncovered land.

Student housing

- Room crisis, 6 students living in 4-bedroom flat, sold or rented to a family, now 6 individuals are homeless
- Housing students room crisis due to changes in tenancies, student flats being rented out to family over the summer break, where do the students go on their return in the new year?
- Palmerston North is recognised as a major tertiary hub both nationally and internationally, Massey University, Te Wānanga, UCOL, IPC. How do we house these students? Current plans? Development of central city office blocks to apartments? Is this allowed for in PNCC building code?
- Focus on students housing as well as families.



Does the council need to look at CHIP houses? See report below.

Home ownership

Are you interested in owning your own home?

CHIP's self-help program helps low-income households become homeowners! Here is what we offer:

- Affordable financing packages
- Excellent construction supervision
- Quality, energy-efficient homes

More than just building houses, self-help housing stimulates local economies, establishes credit, and builds new skills, self-confidence, and community. CHIP's Self-Help Program has assisted more than 1,700 households in Butte, Tehama, Shasta, Sutter, Glenn, Lassen, Yuba and Colusa counties with home ownership. Using the mutual self-help method of construction, households partner together to build their homes with the technical assistance provided by CHIP construction supervisors. Each household's labour becomes their down payment, commonly referred to as "sweat equity". Groups of 6-10 participants are formed to construct the homes over an 8-10 month period. With the help of family and friends, each participant must contribute a minimum of 30 hours per week until completion of all the homes in the group. No construction experience is necessary.

Eligibility requirements:

- Household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income
- Must demonstrate repayment ability
- Acceptable (does not have to be perfect) credit
- First-time homebuyer or have not owned a home in past three years
- Plan to live in the home as a primary residence

Participants also must possess a willingness to attend group meetings and to work cooperatively with other participants towards the common goal of homeownership and community.

Self-help construction builds neighbourhoods and community.

Additional reading

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/130614482/new-zealands-first-multigenerational-state-homes-a-pasifika-gamechanger>

<https://penina.org.nz/our-services/#housing>

MaLGRA

MaLGRA is New Zealand's longest running LGBT association and has been running, fighting, and pushing for change and acceptance since 1977. MaLGRA is always there to help other members of the LGBT+ community and other LGBT+ Groups.

Mission: To provide a social service which affirms and empowers gay, lesbian, intersex, transgender, takatāpui, fa'afafine, asexual, and bisexual persons, those questioning their sexuality, and those persons living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and/or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) who are Members of Manawatū Lesbian and Gay Rights Association Incorporated and/or our communities, and their family, whanau/significant others; and which actively promotes the development of a safer social environment for our multicultural communities.

The key things we have been working on and would like to continue to work on are as follows:

- Making sure that the city is inclusive, and allows for the diversity of the rainbow communities.
- We would like to see more arts and rainbow-based events - expanding on the events MaLGRA has done in the past and is continuing to do.
- We would like to expand out rainbow safe spaces project that we are launching in Feb 2023.

- We would like to show case more of our diversity within our communities - things like rainbow art exhibition.
- We would like to expand world Pride month and look at how we can have a Pride parade around the square.
- Annual raising of the rainbow flag in the Square.
- We would like to look at how we can connect our rainbow history with this city - we have talked about having a HIV/Aids memorial tree and bench in the Esplanade.
- In all honestly a lot of the issues our rainbow community faces are not too much off what the general population would face. We need to remember that we, the rainbow community, are a partner like all other partners for councils - and that we need to make sure we have the same platform for us and our community as what is given to other key partners.
- We would like council buildings and services to reflect that we have a range of needs - gender diversity and the normal male and female box is not one size fits all.
- We need to support our rainbow children; we are still seeing so many children and youth taking their own lives because they are not accepted or can't be themselves.

Manawatū Business Chamber

This report responds to PNCC's Community Views Project for the Long Term Plan.

For those Elected Members new to the role, below is a brief outline of MBC (Manawatū Business Chamber):

- We are a membership funded organisation, covering the wider Manawatū, and up to the boundary with neighbouring Chambers (i.e. Whanganui and Kapiti, and a small Chamber in Dannevirke).
- We are one of 31 Chambers Nationwide (see New Zealand Chamber of Commerce).
- Our members businesses range from large organisation to sole traders, to not for profits.
- MBC's members encompasses a large part of the Region's GDP and FTEs.
- We are informed by our Members, Board and Advisory Board.
- Our key roles include Business Support, Training, Networking and Connections, Export Documentation, and (importantly) Advocacy at both a local and national level.
- We have a number of Special Interest Groups under our umbrella including Manawatū Defence Hub, Young Chamber and Contact Centre Cluster.
- We run events, training, and collaborate with other organisations. There are Member Benefits, which are both financial and non-financial.
- We run the Manawatū Business Awards.
- We encourage and promote sustainable business growth.



Local Business Perspective for the PNCC LTP 2024-2034 (points noted in no particular order):

- Businesses are the life-blood of a City, and the Region in which the City is located. PNCC Councillors need to understand the value of all businesses, from the sole-traders and small retailers, through a wide variety of sectors, and through to large tertiary institutes and Government Departments. In the Manawatū we are lucky enough to have excellent and wide-ranging business diversity.
- Enabling sustainable businesses is essential for City growth. Business owners have 'skin in the game' – they care about their employees and give back to the local economy through the flow of cash, employment, social and other contributions. Councillors need to understand the unique needs and characteristics of New Zealand's small businesses and the issues they face.
- The main issue for businesses currently is attracting and retaining talent in the City and Region. We appreciate this is a national and global issue. What could Council focus on to support businesses in this space? Whatever it is needs to be more specific than "great walking/ mountain bike tracks etc", or the "Manawatū - Heaps Better/Improved version 2.0". This is especially important now that we have less of an advantage with house pricing. Focus on the promotion of our City and Region. That means supporting the business community when we talk to Central Government about Immigration settings that not only affect NZ, but directly affect our businesses. Put your shoulders to the wheel when these opportunities arise.
- What does the Council propose for the business sector over the next ten (10) years? Following on from the last few years, what initiatives are in place for recovery given that we are likely to face an economic downturn from 2024/2025?. There is uncertainty ahead in terms of inflation, rising costs, continued supply chain issues etc. How can Council policy help to support business? How can we remove barriers for businesses of all sizes and across all sectors? How can we embrace all our businesses from across all cultures/ethnicities?
- Council should continue to look at ways to be more 'Business Friendly' and make sure that ethos is embedded into its culture. Council should make sure its work and policy programmes minimise disruption to businesses, and it should be creating a regulatory environment that supports small businesses to thrive.
- Council should continue to 'fight for' inter-regional connectivity, which ties in with Te Utanganui.
- A trend that has worsened during the last 12 months is security and escalating crime within the City's CBD. We would like the Council to review CCTV within the City and continue to work alongside other groups, the Police and businesses to find solutions. The Chamber along with Palmy BID have supported the City Ambassador programme and we welcome all other initiatives in this space.

- Council can also actively support initiatives that assist the business community to engage in climate friendly practices and reduce their environmental impact.
- Councillors must listen to and support the rural sector. There are huge knock-on effects to our urban communities if the Region's rural sector suffers the effects of adverse Central Government policies. Local Government needs to push back on central Government where it can and ensure that our Regional voice is heard in Wellington. As part of that Council must continue to work alongside the City/Regional MPs.
- Council should continue to support Buy-Local Campaigns, and PNCC's procurement policy should ensure that local businesses are always considered first. Although such opportunities may not initially appear to be the most price-competitive, if they come to fruition they are likely to have the biggest economic impact overall for our City/Region.
- Continue to engage on the 'parking strategy' i.e. if parking is to be taken away from roadside then Council must ensure that there are other options available. Cars (per se) are not the problem. Accessibility is.

- Keep businesses well informed regarding legislative requirements around earthquake Prone Buildings, including compliance timeframes, and the overall strategy of Council to address this issue.
- 3 Waters – what does this mean for PNCC, the City and our wider region? Does Council have a view on alternative funding models? It is a Public Private Partnership an option, and if so what might that look like?

Whilst there are immediate shorter term issues, the LTP is a 10 year plan, so the continued investment in infrastructure, streets for people, cultural precinct (whatever that looks like, although no more green space is needed - we already have Te Marae o Hine) etc, need to be progressed still, and in consultation with all relevant and affected communities.

We understand that Council also has to focus on housing and other critical issues that directly affect our communities. However, given our role relative to the Business Community, our focus in this summary is on direct business-related matters.

Manawatū Business Chamber will continue to be part of 'the solution' to issues whatever they may be. We will continue to work alongside Council. We want (and value) continued and genuine consultation with Council. We need to be sitting at the table with Council so as to be able to speak directly on behalf of the business community

Manawatū Multicultural Council

Thank you for giving Manawatū Multicultural Council (MMC) the opportunity as a sector-lead organisation under Papaioea Palmerston North City Council, to present the voice of our community in the long-term planning of our city.

Overview of MMC

Manawatū Multicultural Council prides itself in almost 30 years of services and support to migrants, newcomers, and former refugees in Palmerston North. We are an established charitable organisation with current membership of 58 ethnic communities and groups. We are focused on improving the socio-economic and cultural wellbeing of our multicultural communities through advocacies, information, navigation, and connection services in collaboration with relevant agencies.

One of the roles of MMC is to act as the starting point for former refugees, migrants, newcomers, and others with an ethnic community background to serve as the link and referral agency. At our information, resources, and activity centre on 77-85 King Street, Palmerston North, we run language classes, active learning, and skills workshops, such as arts and crafts, sewing, as well as being a drop-in centre for information and advice.

In response to the growing needs of new migrants in the Manawatū region and what it means to our children in schools, we are currently running a Welcoming Schools Pilot Programme to further deepen our knowledge and strategy for engendering cultural diversity, awareness, and inclusivity in our local schools.

We celebrate the beauty of our diverse cultures in Palmerston North by organising events such as the Festival of Cultures (which comes with Cultural Dress and Lantern Parade), World on Stage show, Celebration of Ethnic Songs and Praises show, Teas, and Coffees of the world exhibition. We also support our communities' cultural events, such as national days, Lunar New Year, etc.



Our community views

To contribute our community views to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan and help our elected members with their decision-making, we conducted both online and focus group surveys, we articulated areas of interest for our community members and what they would want elected members to think about as they seek to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our Palmerston North Community. The points to which we turn now:

Topic of interest in order of prominence	Conversations/ submissions
1 Transport and roading	This is one of the top issues raised by our multicultural community. Respondents suggest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More frequent bus services ➤ Better routes ➤ Longer operating hours ➤ Free transportation for students, elderly, and persons with disability ➤ Reduction in the cost of transportation ➤ Increase in the number of buses to reduce waiting time ➤ Introduction of city train ➤ Roads to be made wider to allow for easy flow of traffic ➤ Traffic lights or roundabouts to be put at the intersection of Linton and Ferguson Street opposite Park and Save supermarket ➤ Traffic lights opposite the Plaza on Church Street to be put on faster pace to reduce traffic build-ups ➤ Introduction of mini-EV buses since some of the big buses are never more than about a third full
2 Infrastructure	Part of community interests in infrastructure include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further improvement to on-road cycling infrastructure and better maintenance of footpaths ➤ More infrastructural developments to increase job opportunities. ➤ Road works need to be completed faster ➤ Decorate The Square and other streets with lights throughout the year
3 Community engagement	Our community survey results showed a high level of interest in this topic. The conversation is around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improvement in simplifying communication, using mailboxes to circulate more information materials abouts events within the community ➤ Having more seasonal and monthly activities ➤ Organising more events to bring communities together so that they can understand each other ➤ Having more councillors participate and be seen at cultural events ➤ Encouraging activities within residential areas for neighbours to know each other

Topic of interest in order of prominence	Conversations/ submissions
4 Diversity and inclusion	This was a conversation for 91.67% of our respondents. The views include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To give stronger focus to accessibility for people with disabilities ➤ More inclusion and making everyone feel welcome with no judgement ➤ To have more ethnic councillors elected
5 Environment and climate change	Our community indicated needs in this area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further improvement to on-road cycling infrastructure and better maintenance of footpaths ➤ To keep our environment safe and green, plastic-free, and lower carbon emissions ➤ Provide opportunities for more people to own electric cars
6 Housing	It showed by 83.33% response that housing is of interest to our multicultural communities. Their suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making more land available for housing development and expediting actions on existing housing areas ➤ Provide suitable housing for everyone ➤ Build apartments for the homeless to take them off the streets ➤ Build more houses to lower house rents ➤ More support for healthy homes requirements
7 Rubbish and recycling	Our community views this as important with 83.33% respondents having their say. Opinions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To have free rubbish bins for residents ➤ To introduce inorganic rubbish collection for free twice a year so that people would not dump in the reserves and parks
8 Business and development	Views from our community show a 72.73% interest in this area. Conversations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making business accessible to people from different cultural backgrounds and socio-economic levels ➤ Provision of more support and relief to businesses so that they can employ more workers and increase job opportunities ➤ Ensuring that businesses belong to Chamber of Commerce and to wider business groups in the city, so they are integrated and not operating in silos ➤ Encouraging a diverse workforce across businesses in the city
9 Water	A good number of our respondents (70%) indicated interest in this area, with the following submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To provide free water for both home-owners non-homeowners ➤ Need for cleaner water ➤ Old water pipes to be replaced to reduce residues and colorations ➤ Rivers to be cleaned up

Topic of interest in order of prominence	Conversations/ submissions
10 Parks and reserves	Results from our community survey indicate that 66.67% of our respondents want improvement in our parks. Submissions to our elected members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Need for eco-friendly, and safe park for children of all ages ➤ To make more accessible parks and playgrounds for children and adults with disability ➤ To make parks more entertaining by bringing ice cream trucks, balloon artists, music, jesters, etc, and encourage people to get out of the house
11 Rates	In the aspect of rates, we had 66.7% of respondents show interest with some suggestions, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investing rates more on projects such as roading and water infrastructure, which are more value for money ➤ To have more suitable water rates for residents ➤ To consider momentary rate freeze due to current economic hardship
12 Parking	Our community views show 62.50% of respondents have interest in this area. Ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create more pay parking places ➤ Parking meter charges to be reduced ➤ Seniors and mobility parkers to get free parking all day, 7 days
13 Civil defence and emergencies	This is another area that is of interest for our community. Suggestions to our elected members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To adequately support training of residents of our community in case of natural disasters ➤ To have neighbourhood representatives to provide information residents during emergencies ➤ To ensure there are instructions in different languages
14 Safety and crime prevention	Our community wants to see improvement in safety and crime prevention, and have the following suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To have Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras installed in the city centre and public areas

Pasifika Reference Group

The Pasifika reference group welcomes the opportunity to submit their views on the development on the Long-Term plan.

There are many key initiatives which have been put in place by the Pasifika Community and supported by the PNCC over the years. These initiatives have been the incubators of success for many Pasifika youth and their families. These have included things such as the Secondary Schools Pasifika Fusion, the Pacific Study Support centre, various Pacific early childhood centres, Niu Sina a Le Pasefika, The Amanaki Stem Academy, plus many other examples throughout the region.

The view for our Pacific peoples has always been to strengthen our cultures and identity as Pacific peoples. This is also the focus of Pacific Aotearoa - Lalanga Fou.

The goals of Lalanga Fou represent the aspirations of this reference group and should also be the aspirations of the PNCC.

Goal 1 Thriving Pacific language, cultures and identities

Goal 2 Prosperous Pacific communities

Goal 3 Resilient and healthy Pacific peoples

Goal 4 Confident and thriving Pacific young people

With these goals in mind, we wish the PNCC to consider these proposals:

Goal 1 – Thriving Pacific language, cultures and identities

- Continue supporting the current initiatives as outlined above.
- Develop a visual presence of Pacific Peoples in Te Marae o Hine (and/or surrounding area).
- This could be some artwork, photos, or even a Fale Fono (meeting house) in the Square somewhere.
- Redevelop the Pacific Centre at Bill Brown Park or an alternative venue which could be more central and closer to town.
- Host a biannual regional Pacific peoples event.

Goal 2 – Prosperous Pacific communities

- More discussions with housing developers to incorporate more suitable housing designs to include medium density standards which cater for the larger Pacific families.
- Medium density housing located in areas across Te Papaioea not concentrated in certain areas.
- Opportunities for Pacific business or prospective business owners to have access to business mentors, grants or training coordinated by a dedicated Pacific peoples liaison at the PNCC.
- Having a Pacific Peoples Liaison officer to be the conduit to improve pathways to access to housing.
- Opportunities for a PNCC lead Pacific Peoples affordable housing scheme.

Goal 3 – Resilient and healthy Pacific Peoples

- A Pacific Peoples Health Centre developed not just a Liaison at the Hospital.
- Pasifika Health centre developed and Te Papaioea becoming the knowledge hub for Pasifika Health in conjunction with Massey University and MidCentral Health.

Goal 4 – Confident and thriving Pacific young people

- Pasifika youth representation on PNCC or as an additional reference group
- Pasifika youth convention held in Te Papaioea
- Pasifika youth success stories captured and put into a regular publication

A long term goal for Pacific peoples would be to have its own Fale Fono (meeting house). This could be a multi purpose space but with the primary goal of holding formal meetings or events in the space. The Fale Fono would be held in the same regard for Pacific peoples as a Whareniui on a Marae would be for Māori. This would be something special for our Region. The land could be acquired by the PNCC and the Pacific community could join together to generate funds to build the Fale.



An example of a Fale.

As bullet pointed in Goal 2, Housing is a significant issue for Pasifika as cost and availability are constant barriers. A long term goal would be to coordinate with housing developers to build medium density housing in a range of locations across Te Papaioea. Working closely with the PNCC town planners and the PNCC Pasifika Liaison, plans could be developed to locate and build houses in areas that provide Pasifika families with a range of living options. This would include access to a variety of schools, public amenities, parks, shops and different housing options. Currently, there is a concentration of Pasifika in certain areas.

Lastly, as mentioned in Goal 1, a long term goal would be to see some form of Pasifika art or visual representation in the square or other installations across Te Papaioea. Currently there doesn't seem to be anything that Pasifika can relate to that is a fixture of our city. This would help with the sense of belonging and celebration of the Pacific cultures represented in our city.

Seniors' Reference Group

The Seniors' Reference Group supports the proposal put to Council by Aged Friendly Palmerston North to become an age friendly City and Community (the text of this submission is below). This would involve Palmerston North becoming a member of the Age Friendly global network and for Palmerston North as a city to seek WHO accreditation and for Council to also seek government funding to do so.

The context of this support is a resolution by the PNCC Community Development Committee passed on 14 September 2022 to refer the Age Friendly Palmerston North proposal to the Long Term Plan process.

Age-Friendly Palmerston North submission to PNCC 14 September 2022

The Age Friendly Palmerston North organisation requests the PN City Council to start the process of becoming an Age Friendly city according to the World Health Organisation criteria, as soon as possible.

Becoming an age friendly city is a simple process. Information to assist is available through the NZ Ministry for Seniors and the NZ Office for Seniors.

The first action we ask is for the PNCC to join the WHO Aged Friendly Global Network Community and link into the NZ Government's Office for Seniors Age Friendly Aotearoa/NZ programme.

These entities both provide examples of activities, and guidance and support for civic bodies committed to becoming aged friendly, and give access to some NZ government funding for this purpose. From there, it will be easy to develop projects which enable Palmerston North/Papaioea to reach its age friendly potential.

The second action requested is for the PNCC to include its intention of becoming Age Friendly in the 2023 Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan and allocate a budget for its success.

The WHO requires eight areas to be considered when a community is becoming aged friendly. These are: Transport, Housing, Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, Outdoors Spaces & Buildings, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, Community Support & Health Services.

Palmerston North/Papaioea is already well on the way to becoming an aged friendly city, but, as the process needs to be undertaken by civic bodies not individual groups, it needs the PNCC to do the mahi.

This will mean that the Council will need to participate with interest groups across the city to produce an Age Friendly City Plan, put it into action and undertake reviews. We expect that Age Friendly Palmerston North will be the group which walks beside the Council, assists with consultation with the wider community groups and monitors progress.

Sport Manawatū

General

Established in 1987, Sport Manawatū (SM) is a charitable trust which delivers a range of services and events which benefits play, active recreation, and sporting interests of Palmerston North City, Manawatū, Horowhenua and Tararua. Sport Manawatū headquarters is located at 40 Te Marae o Hine while we have satellite offices based in Feilding, Dannevirke and more recently Levin.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on matters likely to affect our sector in the future. These views are outlined below:

- Working collectively and collaboratively across agencies is more important now than ever. whānau face many challenges such as transport, cost, housing and so forth. If we all work in silo on our own areas, we will never drive systemic change. All areas of health and wellbeing are interlinked, and whānau need a more holistic approach to understanding their needs and their aspirations to truly make meaningful change.
- Play, active recreation and sport is so much wider than just getting active, it creates opportunities for whānau and community connection and cohesion. Play, recreation and sport carried out in a responsive way to meet the needs of the community can act as a vehicle to create wider opportunities to improve health and wellbeing and create thriving communities. To achieve this, we need to work collectively with our partners, iwi, Māori, and our communities.

- Play, active recreation and sport is also an opportunity to better highlight the wonderful spaces and places in the community. Free public spaces and places reduce barriers for the community to get out and get active together. We need to work collaboratively to protect these environments and spaces, particularly our green spaces for future generations. There is also an opportunity to use walkways and spaces as one way to preserve and tell the story of local history and culture.
- The Active Communities Fund application process is managed in a discreet manner to offset the realities of it being at risk of it being oversubscribed. While we do not actively advertise the fund, it is essential for increasing community participation, regardless of age. We can currently support people with up to \$500, so if 20 people apply for \$500 then the fund only benefits very few people. We could easily allocate \$50k annually to this fund and make a significant impact on the activity levels of the least active in the community.
- The Sports Event Partnership Fund has been a critical strategic tool supporting our sector while also proving economic benefit for the Council stakeholders. Each dollar Council invests returns close to \$40 in economic benefit to the city. The current allocation of \$260k has been just enough for retention of events, but now with other councils investing on infrastructure and attraction funds, it will be a challenge to both, retain the events we currently host and even more difficult to attract new events.

- A number of athletes knock on our doors each year seeking financial support to pursue excellence in sport. They all come in need of funds to allow them to compete at the highest level. Is there an opportunity for Council to consider a fund which supports these athletes?
- We recommend all sectors come together to discuss how we collectively respond to the looming recession. The greatest area of need other than financial stability in the home will be provision of activities and services to support mental and emotional wellbeing. Physical activity is a crucial mechanism for the health of the community. It is essential whānau can access activities, spaces, and places for free to support their mental, spiritual, and physical health.

- The sector needs to be more considered in its efforts to recruit and retain Volunteer committees involved in sport administration. Added compliance requirements under the revised Incorporated Societies Act will further divide a workforce already stretched. Less skilled people are volunteering and when they do, the expectations can be more onerous than those in paid roles. Having fun and enjoyment needs to come back into making volunteering attractive.
- Finally, we would like allocation in the LTP for infrastructure changes which promotes active travel to schools. The need for this would be identified through school travel plans with the school's agreement being necessary before any changes are made. Sport Manawatū is contracted to do two school travel plans annually.



Square Edge Community Arts

Ko mātou tēnei

Who we are

arts – together - transformation

Square Edge Community Arts are a not-for-profit community arts organisation with over 40 years of experience working with and within our community. Square Edge are governed by a community board with council representation and have a team of four passionate staff all working part-time hours to manage our arts centre building, galleries, gallery shop, tenancies, and a wide array of programmes and events. We house, host, and offer self-representation and the opportunity to build sustainable incomes to our eclectic, vibrant, colourful and hugely diverse community.

Tā mātou mahi

Our mahi

Square Edge encompasses the broadest definition of the arts. Our beautiful three story art deco building houses artists and creatives in many different genre – we have drama and language schools, a voice teacher, picture framer, cabaret performer, voice and nga taonga pūoro artists, painters, art classes, an arts therapist, Māori health practitioners, jewellers, a sign writer, a creative space for people with disabilities, plastic free grocer, florist, pottery studio, sustainable bookstore, café and much more. Our venues host a stream of creatives running and attending workshops, yoga classes, music, theatre, comedy, and dance rehearsals, classes, and performances.

As a sector-lead organisation Square Edge holds space for and offers guidance and ongoing practical support to many organisations, groups, and individuals. We collaborate to develop new programmes and initiatives and are perceived as the space to ask about and get involved with all things creative. Our reputation as an innovative and supportive space means that we are often asked for advice by other arts organisations across Aotearoa.

Every month Square Edge hosts artists' exhibitions in our three beautiful gallery spaces, and once a year we manage and deliver the huge Art Trail Manawatū event showcasing over 100 artists in studios and venues across our region, bringing in many thousands of visitors. Our gallery shop offers authentic local artwork for sale, also with the intention of building sustainable incomes for our region's creatives. Square Edge partner with Massey University and Palmerston North City Council to deliver the Palmerston North Artists in residence scheme, bringing the inspiration of three talented artists and writers a year into our city.

Our mahi is dynamic, people-driven, and at the colourful, expressive, vibrant creative heart of the Palmerston North community.



Hei huritao Reflections

As an organisation Square Edge strongly support PNCC's strategic goals for our city. With the instigation of our new strategic plan in 2020, and in response to the dynamic change that the Covid 19 pandemic brought, our organisation has rapidly evolved to offer innovative approaches to meet the needs of constantly fluctuating environments and community needs. Over the past three years we have moved both our exhibitions and Art Trail Manawātū studio visits and artist profiles online. We are currently also developing an accessible online workshop space and free online artist mentoring programme to improve arts access.

Our organisation is a public space that offers refuge and connection to many people who sit at the margins in this city. People wander through the galleries, sit quietly in our courtyard gardens, sleep on our couches, play our piano, run up and down the stairs, meet each other in our café, and engage with our warm community of tenants. At Square Edge we embrace difference and that makes our space safe.

The Square Edge galleries provide a venue for the robust voices of creatives to express narratives that approach social, cultural, justice, environmental, and political issues visually, offering a unique way into these for the over 200,000 visitors that come through our building each year. Agitation, activation, advocacy, and education happen in a different way through the arts, but they build awareness effectively. Many of our exhibitions challenge entrenched perspectives, offer self-representation to marginalised and 'unseen' groups, and shake up the status quo. They also inspire and exemplify technical and aesthetic excellence, honour community and cultural narratives, bring in people who may never normally engage with art, and create conversation around difficult discourses.

Hei awhero Aspirations

The Square Edge space offers a microcosm – a snapshot of a community doing its best to care for and encourage each other, our visitors, our city, and our environment. While we are constantly working towards being a safer, more inclusive space (and we don't always get that right) – we are making a difference right now. What we are trying to achieve through the arts (like so many other organisations) reflects the councils' broader goals for our city.

Our aspirations are built on our relationships and our broad understanding of the arts as a vehicle for change, connection, and transformation.

We aspire to:

- still be here doing this mahi in another 40 years
- respond to the communities' needs and aspirations
- artists and arts organisations sustaining themselves financially
- contribute to a broader landscape
- to reach into and offer space to our whole community

Hei mahi māu What can you do?

There is often a sense that the arts are a separate part of community – they are just for artists and creatives to dabble in...kind of a 'nice to have space' that makes us feel good but that isn't necessarily relevant to everyone, or as important as other more functional aspects of our city.

The arts and community wellbeing and connection are interwoven.

The arts and broader social and environmental issues are interwoven.

As our city representatives and kaitiaki we ask you:

- to invite arts representatives into discussions around all aspects of our city management and representation
- to consider the part the arts can play in the many diverse operations of our city and to allocate budget to making this happen
- to support our artists' and creatives' aspirations, events, and voices – come along to exhibitions, performances, and arts events and listen to your community through this critical avenue – you might be surprised by what you hear!
- Not to under-estimate the power of creativity in creating change – art is a powerful taonga - a treasure that reflects the cultures and experiences of your constituents
- To see us as more than just an add-on to the real business of council.





Te Pū Harakeke Community Collective Manawatū

E kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a brief contribution at this early stage of your 2024-33 Long Term Plan.

Background

Te Pū Harakeke—Community Collective Manawatū (formerly the Palmerston North Community Services Council) has enjoyed a positive and productive relationship with PNCC for more than 50 years. Te Pū Harakeke is a collective body for community and social service organisations in Palmerston North and the Manawatū. We currently have a membership of more than one hundred for-purpose organisations, along with a small number of individuals working in the local community and social sector.

Our vision is to see a strong, vibrant, and connected community sector in the Manawatū, and our mission is to empower community groups to participate in, and contribute to, the community and its wellbeing.

We are extremely grateful for the Council's ongoing support for the community sector, in particular the Council's commitment to financially supporting community groups through a range of funds in the Council's current and previous long-term plans. This enables the community sector to deliver a vast range of services and activities which improve the wellbeing of the people of Palmerston North.

Community Development

In the Community Development chapter of the Connected Communities Plan 2021 (p. 17), community development is defined as “the process of enabling diverse groups to share concerns, plan for the future, capitalise on opportunities and strive towards wellbeing” – we believe community development goes further – stepping in and doing the work alongside communities, while always being led by that community.

It is important that in setting out your plans as a Council, communities are empowered to bring their own grass-roots solutions, and that Council back this up with funding, support, facilities and resources. Communities must be allowed to determine their own outcomes, and access to funding and resourcing should not be unnecessarily cumbersome.

To this end, we acknowledge the role your Community Development Team plays in assisting and empowering the sector and ‘doing the mahi’ alongside communities and encourage Council to continue investing in this. It is also important for Council to be aware of the power or influence that both elected members and Council officers hold in the for-purpose sector and the effect that this can have on the future and viability of organisations – for example, a funding allocation to one organisation over another can have a long-lasting impact.

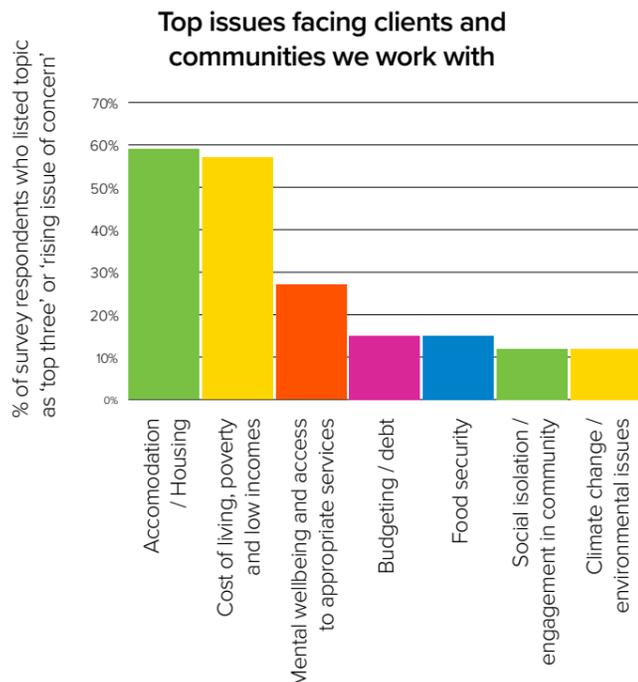
We believe Council also have a role in advocating for the local for-purpose sector at a national/ central government level, and it is important that both Councillors and officers maintain strong relationships across the breadth of the sector to effectively fulfil this role.

Social Wellbeing

As you are aware, the Local Government Act sets out the purpose of local government as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. Our primary focus is social wellbeing (although many of our connected groups work in the other areas also).

In preparation for the recent Social Wellbeing Forum, we asked workers in the community sector¹ what the biggest issues their clients/ community are facing, and if there are any other social issues they are concerned about.

There were some very clear themes, none of which will be particularly surprising – housing and the cost of living were by far the most common responses, followed by mental health, budgeting, food insecurity, social isolation and climate change.



It is clear that many in our community are struggling to meet their most basic needs – and as we know, until physiological and safety needs such as food and housing are met, mental wellbeing and other needs which contribute to a happy and healthy life tend to take a back seat.²

We therefore encourage the Council to keep these issues front of mind when preparing your next LTP and allocate resources to programmes, services and community groups who are working to address these needs.

In the housing space, we applaud council for its previous commitment to building more social housing, and encourage you to keep doing what you can in that space, as well as working to enable the development of new housing in any way you can.

The Community Sector

We also asked kaimahi in the sector about how their organisations are faring. The 'top issues' were much more varied, but common themes were

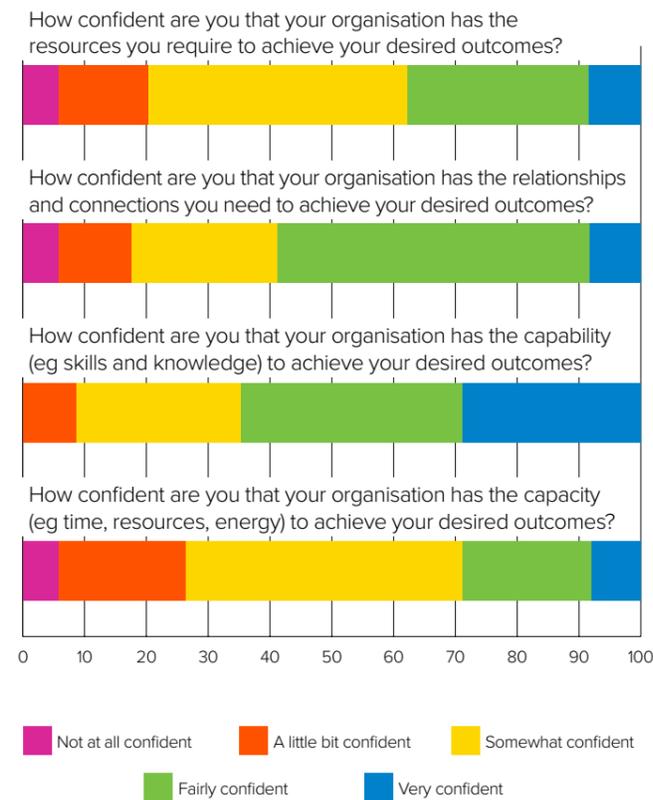
- Funding – availability of funds and long-term security of funding
- Recruitment and retention of quality staff
- Coordination and connection between services

Kaimahi are generally confident in their organisations' outlook.

They are most confident in their organisations' capability (i.e. that they have the skills and knowledge required) (65% fairly confident or very confident).

They are least confident that they have the capacity (i.e. time, energy or resources) to achieve their desired outcomes (27% not at all or a little bit confident).

There is a small group – around 5% who are not at all confident across three of the four measures.



To continue working towards greater coordination and collaboration across the for-purpose sector, we encourage the Council to continue investing in 'Sector Lead' organisations, which help bridge the gaps between different services and establish relationships throughout the sector. We suggest the Council considers establishing a discrete fund for Sector Lead Partnerships, separate from the Strategic Priority Grants, so that this work does not take away from or compete with services delivering frontline services.

Finally, we encourage the Council to increase the funding available to groups delivering essential services to improve the social wellbeing of our city's residents. We understand that in this tight economic climate, this will not be easy. However, community groups operate on a shoestring budget – this often results in staff becoming overworked, for much lower pay than they could earn in the private sector or in the public service. Increasing the funding available to enable organisations to employ more staff, at wages closer to market rates would make the single biggest difference in increasing the capacity of the social sector. We believe that this investment will make an exponentially greater impact to the wellbeing of the city than the small savings that could be made on rates bills.

Historically, Palmerston North has been a leader among territorial authorities in providing funding and support for the community sector, and we encourage you to continue this in the 2024-34 long term plan.

¹ The survey was sent to all of our community sector contact list, respondents who indicated they worked in local government or the public service were removed. 44 responses remained. Full results will be included in the Social Wellbeing Forum Report.

² Consider Maslow's hierarchy of needs; see Maslow, A. H. (1943). "A theory of human motivation". Psychological Review. 50 (4): 370–396.

Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance

This submission is provided on behalf of the Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance for the purpose of advocating and highlighting our key aspirations for Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) to actively consider in the Long Term development and planning processes which will impact on the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our Māori communities within the City.

Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance was established in 2013, with 9 local Iwi and Māori health and social service providers, hapū, marae voices and local branches of national Māori organisations. The members located in Te Papaioeā include:

- Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust,
- He Puna Hauora,
- Rangitaane Māori Wardens,
- Te Wakahuia Manawatū Trust,
- Māori Women's Welfare League (Rangitaane ki Manawatū)

Wider membership includes Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated, Te Roopu Hokowhitu, Māori Women's Welfare League (Ngāti Kauwhata), Rangitaane o Tāmaki nui a Rua and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority who are located across the wider central region; Tamaki Nui ā Rua, Manawatū and Horowhenua.

Te Tihi o Ruahine came together with a shared commitment to the Whānau Ora movement. Importantly, each organisation continues to operate under their own mana motuhake providing a wide range of services, initiatives and programmes to support the aspirations, growth and development of whānau within their respective rohe. As an Alliance, Te Tihi is committed to "Reaching New Heights" together with Whānau, Hapū and Iwi.

Te Papaioeā population

To provide brief context to the makeup of the Māori population, we can see that the overall total population within Te Papaioeā is 84,639 (Census, 2018), whilst the count for Māori is 16,700.

Of this count, the median age for Māori is 23.3 years old (Census, 2018) which is much younger in comparison to that of the total population at 34 years old.

Population projections

Infometrics suggest our rohe will continue to grow, with the total projected population size in 2043 estimated to be about 110,700. This includes changes to the proportion of whānau identifying as Māori increasing to 26% (currently 18%). There will also be significant increases of people identifying as Asian and Pacific ethnicities.

There will also be changes to the current age structure. By 2038 it is predicted that, 41 percent of 0–14-year-olds in the city will identify as Māori and 17 percent with a Pasifika ethnicity. 18 percent will identify as Asian and 70 percent European (MDHB Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2024).

Aspirations

Tangata Tiriti engagement with Māori as Tangata Whenua

Across time the politicisation of the Treaty and Te Tiriti has shifted and moved based on both the capacity of Tangata Whenua to advocate for the original intent and vision of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the priorities of the government of the day. Therein the positioning and focus on Māori rangatiratanga (explicit within Te Tiriti has been through a journey; having very little relevancy within the Treaty / Te Tiriti relationship, when ruled a nullity in 1877, to having a greater presence in policy and strategies across all sectors; this journey can be readily seen within a local government context with the establishment of Māori wards.

This journey has also seen huge shifts in the discourse for advocacy of Māori advancement, from a "Treaty partnership" to re-defining Te Tiriti relationships between Tangata Tiriti and Tangata Whenua. The shift to Te Tiriti relationships sees mana motuhake take focus; an acknowledgement that one people does not mean the same people, nor should it. It is a celebration of diversity and a recognition of the beauty and value of Māori indigeneity.

Within this context, Tangata Tiriti play an integral role to deconstructing non-Māori systems of knowledge and approaches that have and continue to be a barrier to effectively mobilise Māori ways of knowing. It is imperative that Tangata Tiriti also see themselves as an important catalyst in enabling Māori to advance and operationalise this across all levels. Local Collective Impact initiatives¹ Kainga Whānau Ora and Ora Konnect present an opportunity for PNCC to effectively activate their role as Tangata Tiriti at a governance level by ensuring Council representatives have:

- robust knowledge of Collective Impact
- the appropriate level of decision making power,
- access to relationships to mobilise operational kaupapa and
- access to resource to contribute to collective aspirations.

Other areas that present high leverage opportunities for Palmerston North City Council to actively contribute as Tangata Tiriti to the advancement of Māori within Te Papaioeā include, Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Kai Sovereignty and Data.



HE AHA RĀ NGĀ WHĀINGA MATUA? WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

Health and wellbeing

Over the past 18 months, a number of developments have been occurring simultaneously across Te Aka Whai Ora (TAW) and Te Whatu Ora (TWO) nationally, regionally and locally. While Te Whatu Ora can utilise existing resources to inform and improve their health systems and processes, Te Aka Whai Ora are in a concurrent development and operational phase, having started from scratch.

The challenge for Te Aka Whaiora and the wider supporting stakeholders (which includes Māori organisations in this community) is to understand the position of Māori – to prioritise a Te Ao Māori perspective.

Some of the work that is in development across Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora includes (but is not limited to):

- Commissioning and Co-Commissioning Framework development
- Data Governance and Māori Data Sovereignty
- Establishment of Locality Prototypes
- Finalised New Zealand Health Plan
- Performance and Accountabilities Framework
- Transition of current DHB system into the new Health System
- Establishment of Iwi Māori Partnership Boards
- Locality Plans

Māori are advocating and activating a Māori world view across an ever-evolving health sector and support from PNCC as a Te Tiriti partner will be required.

Under the mantle and Leadership of Rangitaane o Manawatū Iwi and with support of Te Pae Oranga a Ruahine a Tararua (Iwi Māori Partnership Board), partners dedicated to the health and wider wellbeing of Te Papaioeā have come together to collectively develop the locality plan for the implementation and delivery of community health and wellbeing services across Te Papaioeā. The locality plan should look to clearly define and provide investment pathways that focus on ensuring:

- Wellbeing and health priorities are informed by whānau voice and whānau data.
- Community aspirations are supported by strong leadership, effective governance models and collective and shared infrastructure.
- Line of sight to socio-economic and cross sector initiatives contribute to wellbeing within our community.
- Quality systems and infrastructure that enables Data Sovereignty.
- Workforce Advancement across matauranga Māori practice and the regulated and unregulated Māori workforce.
- Matauranga Māori is embedded within system infrastructure to guide models of care and the subsequent practice.
- Clear communications enable transparent practices and a well-informed community.

Involvement of PNCC within the governing group, Te Roopu Kaitiaki, will be crucial to:

- Actualising the strategic direction.
- Utilising their exhaustive networks to enable access to places, resources, expertise and spaces.
- Illuminate opportunities that support the wellbeing of our people to achieve Whānau Ora and contribute to making Te Papaioeā the best City in the world for our citizens.

Kai Sovereignty

Te Tihi o Ruahine, Iwi and wider Māori organisations have actively led the Kai Security space during the covid pandemic and has enabled us to develop solid relationships within this sector. As we continue to have an active role, it is important that long term plans have strong support from the Council. Te Whare Pukai (Te Tihi Distribution Centre) is a demonstration of Te Tihi meeting immediate needs for Kai Security but going forward we require support as we develop a strategic approach to be a part of growing Māori economy, increasing whānau self-management and opportunities to continue working with others (including the Council) to ensure Kai Sovereignty and Kai Security for whānau in the City. This links with Housing Security and Health and Wellbeing to ensure a multi-faceted and collective approach to addressing basic human needs across the City.

Key areas for consideration include:

- Continued strategic relationships with Te Tihi regarding Kai Sovereignty and Kai Security in the city of Te Papaioeā.
- Continue to partner with Te Tihi in on-going developments utilising a Whānau Ora approach.
- Mapping of food foraging spaces across the city, increase fruit and citrus with a decreasing focus on deciduous trees.
- Focus on planting of native trees to enhance birdlife and for easier access to rongoa.



Housing

The drivers of housing insecurity include systemic issues of accessibility that inequitably impact whānau who have challenges centred around financial literacy, debt, unemployment, health and mental health. Accessibility as an issue is driven by housing shortages and further exacerbated by the cumulative effects of poor cross-sector line of sight and collaboration for transitional housing and experiences of personal and institutional racism. This is largely felt by our Māori communities, with 51% of those on the housing register identifying as Māori.

In the Council's 2021-2031 10 Year Plan, PNCC had identified homelessness as an issue in response to submissions relating to emergency housing and requested that options relating to a night shelter be considered. Te Tihi was approached to lead this piece of work however had put forward that to understand a need for accommodation such as a night shelter was to understand the broader environment of housing insecurity being experienced by people across the City. Housing Insecurity therefore became the underlying focus for understanding the issues experienced by residents within Palmerston North.

This focus opened the conversation to understand the broader determinants of Housing Insecurity and the breadth of people within our communities who experience living in their cars, sleeping on people's couches, living in overcrowded conditions, sleeping rough and so forth. The stereotypical picture of who is homeless is now more intense in who that encompasses across the City.

As highlighted in the report, there are a number of housing specific providers operating in the City however there is an abundance of social and health services who have a significant role in supporting people dealing with the consequences of inadequate and insecure housing. Collective Impact provides a framework for coordinating these services and providing overall direction with implementing the recommendations we have presented in this report.

With a focus on those experiencing housing insecurity, a key recommendation was for PNCC to lead the coordination of a Collective Impact approach that provides clear line of sight across the housing continuum for both whānau and those working in it; exploration and investment in existing providers of over-night services; and investment in community spaces for basic human needs.

With a wider lens on whānau who have aspirations for homeownership, it highlights clear opportunities for Council to have a greater presence in the long-term approach to housing security within the city. Excitingly, Te Tihi o Ruahine alongside Te Ranga Maro present a model that has the ability to scale and continue to provide pathways for homeownership and contribute to alleviating housing insecurity. This mahi is not done in isolation of wider stakeholders and Council plays a key role in enabling development.

Key areas for consideration include:

- Continued strategic relationships with Te Tihi regarding housing and land use in the city of Te Papaioeā.
- Opportunity for partnering in the acquisition of land.
- Making land available for acquisition.
- Continue to partner with Te Tihi in on-going developments taking a whānau ora approach.
- Enhancing and developing recreational spaces that are easily accessible for whānau living in the 4412.
- Support for resource consent applications.

Improving access to data

Across multiple projects and programmes Te Tihi is a conduit for our wider Māori network to capture large amounts of whānau data in a secure manner. As indigenous peoples, we believe data access and use should be underpinned by the principles of Māori Data Sovereignty and position ourselves as kaitiaki within this context. As kaitiaki it is pertinent we ensure Data Sovereignty is understood, is actualised into usable tools, maintains a strength-based approach to data analysis and implements robust security protocols. Also, significant to Data Sovereignty is maintaining the rights of whānau (those who the data is about) to have mandate of use, access and dissemination.

The development of data infrastructure for Māori and Iwi providers in our rohe serves to improve our ability to design and develop kaupapa that effectively serve the needs and aspirations of our hapori. Equally, enable services to return data back to whānau so they are able to make informed decisions and manage their own pathways for oranga.

Council could play a key role in enabling better data and wellbeing outcomes through:

- Partnering with Te Tihi to enable access to council held Māori data.
- Mutually beneficial workforce development programmes specific to data e.g. workplace exchanges, peer to peer learning.
- Building relationships that foster collaborative working to achieve awesome wellbeing outcomes for our City.

Summary

Our key aspirations for Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) to actively consider in the Long Term development and planning processes are clearly defined in this submission as:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Kai Sovereignty
- Housing
- Data

Whilst we have highlighted the above aspirations, it is important to note that Te Tihi is not limited to these areas and that we have clear line of sight across many other aspirations that support the wellbeing of our Māori communities.

As Tangata Tiriti, the PNCC play an integral role to deconstructing non-Māori systems of knowledge and approaches to effectively mobilise Māori ways of knowing. It is imperative that Tangata Tiriti also see themselves as an important catalyst in enabling Māori to advance and operationalise this across all levels.

A photograph of a busy outdoor event on a university campus. In the foreground, a group of diverse students is walking across a paved area. Some are carrying backpacks, and others are talking. In the background, there are trees with yellowing leaves, a blue tent, and a large white building with many windows. The overall atmosphere is lively and academic.

Part two: Student research projects

Student issues – Content analysis of Massey Confessions Facebook

Introduction

This research aims to gain insight into the issues Palmerston North tertiary students face. The goal of understanding these issues and bringing them to you, elected members, is to consider student issues when creating the long-term plan to improve the relationship between Palmerston North and its students.

The Facebook page ‘Massey Confessions’ allows Massey University students to anonymously confess anything they wish, and these confessions often relate to issues students face on or off campus. Recent posts from this page have been analysed to gain a deeper understanding of these issues.

Method for analysis

The Massey Confessions page has been analysed using the content analysis method to identify patterns of themes in the posts. Confessions for analysis were selected based on the following criteria:

- Posted by Palmerston North-based students;
- Main topic surrounded issues in the city and/or the student’s personal issues;
- From 2022.

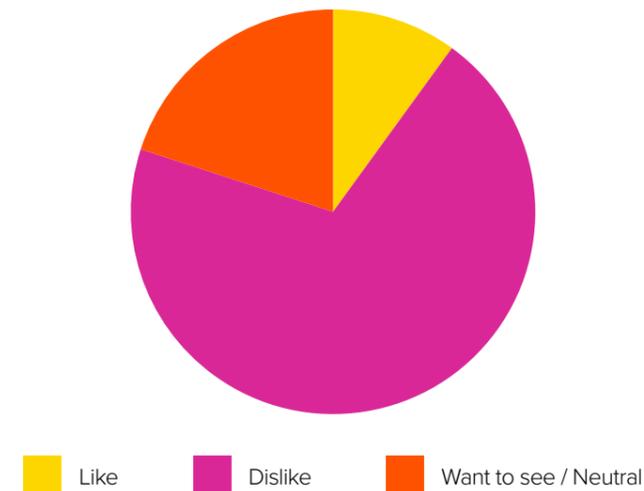
A total of 20 relevant posts have been selected for analysis and the posts will be broken down into categories of neutral/things students want to see in the city, likes and dislikes about the city or their lives.

Drawbacks of using this method include that these confessions are typically student complaints so the data is primarily on dislikes. Also, this page is for Massey University students, so the findings of this analysis may not speak to the issues of other Palmerston North students attending institutions such as IPU and UCOL.

COVID-19 had an impact on Massey University students in 2022, resulting in many classes being online via Zoom and this has been taken into consideration. The researcher undertaking this analysis is from Palmerston North and is a student at Massey University, so they may have unconscious biases but is using their knowledge to help enrich and interpret the findings of the analysis.

Analysis

Tone of confessions



Positives:

From the total of 20 posts, two posts from 2022 express positive reactions from students to things about Palmerston North. Both posts are shout-outs to the great work by:

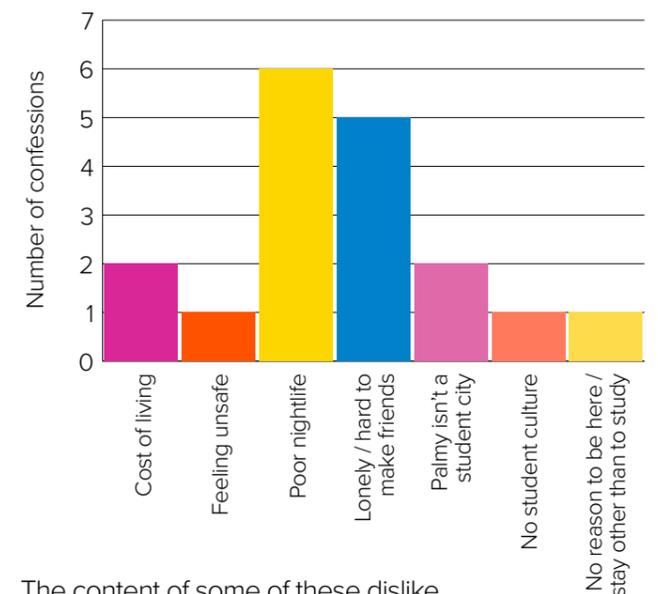
1. Snails: Artist-run space;
2. PNCC’s social media team.

Want to see/Neutral:

This second category has four posts, two of which are posted by students looking for house/techno music events in Palmerston North. Another student’s post uses the hopeful wording “I wish” to express their desire for more beer gardens and rooftop bars in the city to enjoy during the summertime. The last post explains a dislike for Massey University Students Association [MUSA], who are the student representatives at the Manawatū campus acting as a liaison between students and Massey University. This confessor describes their dissatisfaction with MUSA as it feels out of touch with students and does not provide fun events during times like O-Week.

Dislikes:

Dislikes about Palmerston North



The content of some of these dislike confessions involve multiple categories and have been counted as such.

Although the cost of living only has two counts, it is an interesting topic. The cost of living is going up nationwide and Palmerston North is comparatively cheap compared to other university cities, however, confession #0739 points out that it is also about value for money:

“May as well break my bank at a better city”.

Poor nightlife counted as the most common dislike about Palmerston North from Massey University students. The concerns with the nightlife varied from complaints about bad bars, expensive drinks and terrible music. A couple of the posts mention the idea to reopen the Fitz as currently there is no student bar in Palmerston North.

The second most common issue experienced by the Massey University confessors is feeling lonely and having difficulty making friends. According to these posts, this is caused by a combination of the lack of opportunities in the city and on campus for students to connect with people, as well as COVID-19 which moved many classes online in 2022 and increased feelings of isolation from others and loneliness.

Discussion

Massey University students face individual issues such as mental health struggles, difficulty making friends, financial hardship, loneliness and difficulty finding places to socialise. The overarching issue felt by students is that Palmerston North is not designed for them, there is an underdeveloped student culture and both a physical and emotional disconnect between Massey University and Palmerston North City. There is no single cause for this; to solve it, Massey University, Palmerston North and the students themselves need to work to improve this relationship.

There is also a poor relationship between Massey University students and MUSA which is an opportunity for PNCC and local businesses to fill the gap left open by MUSA. Providing experiences off campus during times like O-Week could help involve students in the city and boost the local economy.

Although poor nightlife and the lack of student bars was a common dislike about Palmerston North, I believe the desire for better nightlife stems from students wanting to make new friends and let their hair down to escape from the stress of studying. A student bar could make students feel welcome in Palmerston North and help develop the student culture within the city. Bars such as The Fitz and The Office have been shut down due to many issues including non-compliance with liquor licences, safety issues and concerns about encouraging alcoholism. Improving the nightlife in Palmerston North could be achieved by providing support for bars and students to make responsible decisions.

Bettering the relationship between Palmerston North and its students will benefit not only students but the city as well. Currently, the city is not seen as a desirable place to stay after graduation:

“People only move to Palmerston North to study, so when they’re done... Adios!”

– Confession #0826.

University produces newly qualified individuals looking for employment and giving these graduates a reason to stay in Palmerston North with their skills would serve the city and promote growth.

Overall, to consider student issues when creating the long-term plan the primary focus should be on improving the relationship between students and the city and making Palmerston North more student-friendly as students feel like visitors to the city rather than people who can call it home.



Tatyana Kooznetzoff

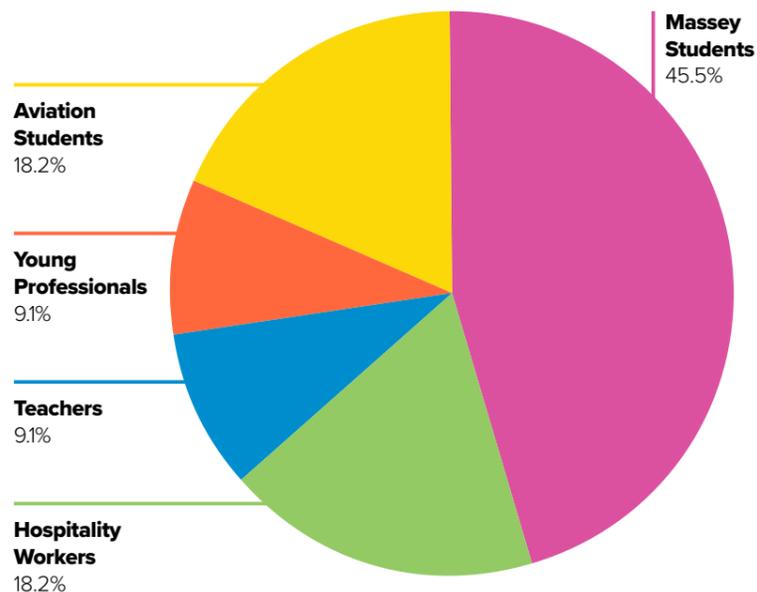
Exploratory qualitative research on what really matters for 18-30 Year-olds in Palmerston North



Photos by Tatyana Kooznetzoff

Introduction

He aha rā ngā whāinga matua? To understand what really matters through the lens of 18–30-year-olds I have conducted 9 interviews and received 2 written and visual responses with the intention to reflect a diverse range of views. These viewpoints, likes, dislikes, aspirations, and expectations have been categorized, by me, into goals of the 2021-2031 Palmerston North 10-Year-Plan. The goal of categorizing the responses was to find a connection, or lack of, between the views found in my responses and the aspirations of the current Long-Term Plan [LTP]. Hopefully, through this analysis, a better understanding of the younger generations needs and wants can be digested by you, the councillors of Palmerston North.



Discussion



City Growth

City growth is specifically, how well-designed development and urban design should contribute to affordable housing, development investment, retention of talent, and long-term prosperity. The positive consensus from project participants is that housing is affordable, and the Esplanade and river walkways provide prosperity and wellbeing. Those who have access to these areas on their way to university and work find it provides a better feeling compared to the arterial roads that fill our city.

When it comes to development interviewees felt Palmerston North was lacking in innovation. From their perspective, well designed and innovative development meant integration between residential and commercial. There was a feeling that Coleman Place, and George, Main and Church streets, had office blocks that aren't in use and should be incentivised to become apartments. They believe terraced housing and greater densification within the city would boost development investment and retention of talent.

Economic Development

The 2021-2031 LTP states economic development's purpose is to support local industries and encourage investment in our city through funding external organisations and achieving a positive city reputation. Many feel that Palmerston North's central North Island location is part of our selling point: however, they also feel the attempt at interregional travel is lacking. In conjunction, despite affordable and good shopping our nightlife doesn't have variety to suit all age groups, events aren't reaching our demographic, and there is a lack of businesses that are activities. Better interregional travel would allow those who want an action-packed weekend to go to another city. But, unless Palmy invokes and promotes activities designed for the younger generation, we will neither retain this generation for the workforce nor incite others to visit our city.

“Working remotely, you can work anywhere so, why would you live in Palmy. Socially and culturally, it has nothing for a young professional”

“Palmerston North – a real ‘kiwi’ student city” (Rosser, 2009) is no longer.

Aside from one participant, this loss of a young soul is believed to be having a negative effect on the retention of young people. Those at university feel the promotion of distance over internal learning is negatively affecting the ability to retain young professionals as they enter the workforce. Those working, notice the imbalance of demographics.



**LTP Goal 2
Creative and Exciting**

The LTP aims to be creative and exciting through the collective impact of public and private projects and using the community to bring life to public space. Palmy isn't a big city, which is found to reduce stress and pressure. Current community projects are welcoming and easy to get involved in, but there is not enough to do for people who don't have kids. Areas outside the Square are described as "just houses and streets" and there is a consensus that something significant needs to happen for it to feel alive beyond the city centre.

Improvements:

- Incentivise the late-night cafes
- Advertise and provide events tailored towards the demographic which does not have kids to reduce harm and provide inclusivity
- Utilise the river area with businesses and activities rather than just recreation
- Arterial roads to become one lane with a tram
- All residential streets should be 30km an hour
- Relatable art and sculptures – integrate heritage with contemporary design
- More heritage value retention like George Street for safer pedestrianisation

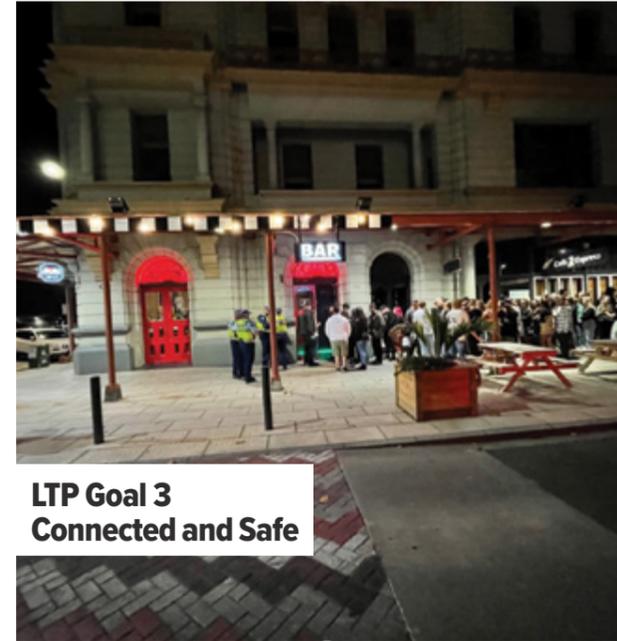
“The priorities of students are changing. As much as flat parties are great, lots of students are looking for a more communal, social, and “wholesome” way to destress from uni work”

Active Communities

Provide active recreation by working with organisations

Why are there industrial/car dealership businesses in the middle of town? Use this space for and to:

- Promote activities for lower income families and schools
- Safer roads for cyclists
- Access to all modes of transport in all sociodemographic areas
- Promote businesses that are activities
- Big markets in the middle of town



**LTP Goal 3
Connected and Safe**

Palmy wants to be a city where people feel connected, included, and safe through developing, providing, supporting, and advocating for services, facilities and events that do so.

Interviewees felt there were three areas for improvement:

Inclusivity

The Palmerston North community is believed to have become less racist and more accepting. However, there is a need to remove the boundaries of sociodemographic groups.

“It would be nice to see community programmes from inspirational people for different groups of people to remove stigma”

Transport

There was agreement that our roads are not safe nor overly inclusive due to poor driving, inequitable access to all modes of transport and careless council ideas. The planter box mentality is best described as “not catering to their surroundings. There are no plants in them, and they lack purpose on a main road where people speed.”

Nightlife

When it comes to Palmy's nightlife, people believe ineffective monitoring and rules alongside a lack of variety is causing more harm than intended. Noticeably, community events regularly end at 8pm, leaving energized people loitering the streets effecting the walkability of our city at night. “More freedom, less harm,” said one interviewee.

Additionally, we have one club, accessed down an alleyway for all to convene. The reality is, we have 18-50 year olds drinking and dancing in the same room causing concern for safety and sexual abuse. With more variety could come greater safety.

Key Improvements

- Take some of the roads back from cars
- 30km speed limit
- Shared paths along main corridors
- Monitored cameras within our city streets could provide safety and jobs for everyone
- Within and close to the city reduce the allowed size of residential property fences



**LTP Goal 4
Eco City**

Eco City

- Greenhouse Gases
- River Amenity
- River Recreation

Decreasing Greenhouse Gases

There was unanimity on improving our interregional travel, including through support for the Capital Connection. If we can get people here in an environmentally friendly way the city will also benefit economically. Some said “PNCC should be contributing to the cost of the Capital Connection to add to its services. Although it is not a requirement, it is in their best interests.”

River Environment

The LTP says the city should increase the health and amenity of the river environment and the use of it for passive and active recreation. The river environment and ongoing council developments along this area are considered both beautiful and useful. The bike paths are excellent and the activities along the water are engaging for kids and adults. As this environment is our biggest asset it is noted we could retain more people if it was integrated with the city.

The phrase “The city smells like cow poo” acknowledges that the state of our river must be improved for the benefit of the greater city.



**LTP Goal 5
Good Governance and Active Citizenship**

- Good Governance
- Active Citizenship

“The things that will engage our young people will only happen if we incentivise young people to be engaged”

The purpose of goal 5 is to provide opportunities to actively engage residents in decision-making processes whilst supporting elected members to excel at good decision-making. It is believed there is a large population of the younger generation that do not vote in local elections and that previous attempts at incentivising young people are not working. Consequently, we are seeing issues. Palmy has a lot of young people but, advertising, events, and pushing for engagement seems to be geared towards families and old people. It is in the council’s best interest to provide an innovative range of opportunities for us to become stakeholders in the future of our city.

“If voters voted things might change but they don’t”

Making good decisions will always be arbitrary but ideas as to how to make good decisions have been provided by a few of the participants.

- Eradicate the planter box mentality and do things with purpose. “Not catering to their surroundings. There are no plants in them, and they lack purpose on a main road where people speed”
- “Instead of doing things incrementally, have a big plan and fix it all in an integrated way”
- “Keep Palmy, Palmy. But that doesn’t mean we want the weird green logo everywhere”
- “Don’t false advertise: It isn’t a student city. Solve the problem and then advertise”





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