

Position paper - Demographic Change in the Rangitikei

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Executive Summary

Demographic change is the change in key characteristics of a population over time. It is generally monitored using age, gender and ethnicity (or cultural heritage). The demographic profile of any area will impact on a range of other social and economic characteristics. Changing demographic profile is used by policy makers and service providers to plan for future levels and types of services required by a particular population.

The key statistics relating to the demography of the Rangitikei are provided in Appendix 1. Most of the information is sourced from Statistics New Zealand and is mainly derived from the Census. This information is becoming slightly dated since the next Census is due 8th March 2011. There will be an opportunity to update the figures within the next 12 months.

The picture that emerges of our District is of a declining and ageing population. The District is bi-cultural, with higher proportions of those of either European or Māori descent. The multi-culturalism that is defining demographic change in New Zealand nationally, is not yet evident in Rangitikei.

The loss of population from the District appears to be predominantly from amongst the “European or other” ethnic group and from the 15-39 age group. The median age for “European or other” ethnicities is set to rise to 47.2 years in 2021 (compared with 41.6 years nationally) and for the “Māori “ ethnic group to 27.3 years in 2021 (compared with 24.8 years nationally). This reflects the aging of the population profile: in 1996, 1 in 8 of the population was aged 65+, by 2031 the proportion is expected to rise to 1 in 3.

The population tends to have low income and high levels of residents with no formal qualifications. This trend is exacerbated amongst the Māori population.

The profile and trend within Rangitikei is very similar to the peer group of local authorities of Central Hawke’s Bay, Tararua, Grey and Clutha. Manawatu with a slightly larger population and closer proximity to Palmerston North more closely mirrors the national profile and trends.

Section one of this report focuses on the specific trends and issues facing older people in the Rangitikei and suggests some possible responses from Council for further examination.

Significant growth in the population of older people will bring both issues and opportunities. It is likely that there will be growth in the number of older workers, an increased demand for local health care and associated services, and recreation, leisure and community groups and activities for older people. Changes are likely to occur in housing type, with a shift to smaller residential housing sections and units becoming more popular, along with growth in use of passenger services (e.g. taxis and shuttles) and public transport.

However, the statistics do not take into account trends in lifestyle choices that people make when planning for their later years. If Rangitikei is unable to provide the services and facilities that people need in their later years, then they may decide to move away from the District. This may yet mean that the projected increase does not materialise.

The Council can encourage older people in the District to make the choices live full and happy lives in the Rangitikei, through ensuring good access to appropriate services, and provision of community facilities that cater for the needs of older people. Decisions on infrastructure, assets and facilities can be made in such a way, that there is a real choice for people to stay in the District, or even to relocate here.

Section two of this report focuses on specific trends and issues facing younger people in the Rangitikei and suggests some possible responses from Council for further examination.

In Rangitikei, as in other areas across the world, the flight of young people from rural to urban areas has resulted in significant changes in the demographic make-up of rural communities which can impact upon the viability and, ultimately, sustainability of the small towns and service centres.

Social Entrepreneur, Peter Kenyon, at the Marton Moving Forward conference in November 2010, suggested that when communities are in competition to attract younger age groups to settle in their areas, those communities that “do nothing” are likely to “get nothing” as a result.

Council has looked in the past at the possibility of developing youth policies and strategies. There has been concern regarding whether or not this is a legitimate area for Council expenditure and involvement. The argument for developing policy in this area, as in any other, is that no policy in effect means a “do nothing” policy. In reality, Council and other groups across the District have taken action as issues or opportunities have arisen. This action has taken place outside of any policy framework and in a piecemeal and uncoordinated manner.

This paper invites Council to look at developing a Youth Policy or Strategy, with the aim of creating a family-friendly District which is a great place to raise a family, where children and young people are valued for their contribution to the community and are given an experience of childhood and adolescence that they will want for their own children in due course.

Section three looks at specific trends and issues facing Council in effectively engaging in a bi-cultural District. Rangitikei has higher proportions of both Māori and European ethnicities and the trend is set for the proportion of Māori to increase and to predominate in the younger age groups. Their disproportionate representation in poor educational, economic and health outcomes is a serious issue which, if not addressed, will affect the long-term prosperity of the District.

Council has an obligation to ensure the well-being of all its residents and should continue to develop the inter-cultural understanding and familiarity that has been championed through TRAK. It should ensure that anything it does to address issues relating generally to young people and older people include the specific needs of our Māori population.

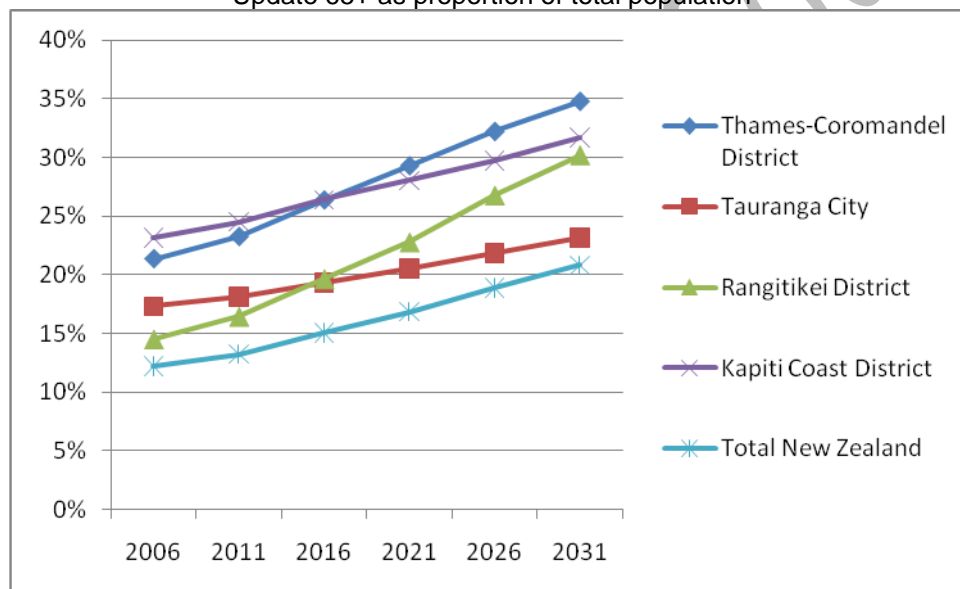
Section 1: Older People

Statistics New Zealand population projections

The life expectancy of New Zealanders has increased significantly over the last 50 years and this is leading to a growing proportion of people in the 65+ age group (from 12% in 2006 to 21% in 2031). Demographic change in the Rangitikei, particularly the loss of younger age groups from the population, means that the proportion of people in the 65+ years age group is predicted rise from 14% in 2006 to 30% in 2031. This is in line with trends within the peer group of authorities (with the exception of Manawatu which has a predicted age profile very similar to the national profile).

It is interesting to note the comparison with known “retirement hubs” such as Thames-Coromandel, Tauranga City and Kapiti Coast.

Subnational Population Projections by Age and Sex, 2006(base)-2031
Update 65+ as proportion of total population

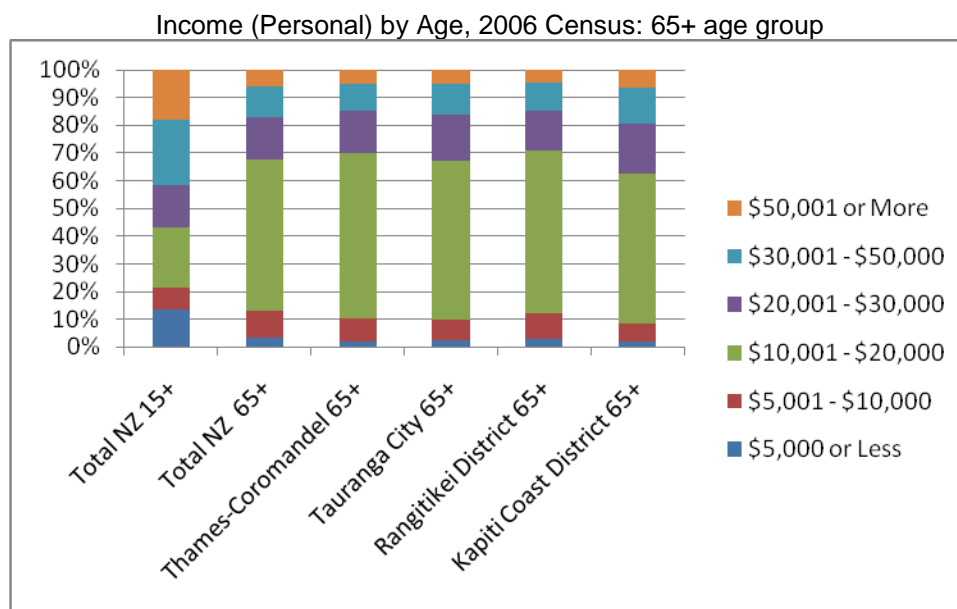


Whilst it appears that the Rangitikei District could be as popular a retirement centre as Thames-Coromandel and Kapiti Coast, and more popular than Tauranga City, this is in the context of growing populations in all the other areas and particularly in Tauranga City which is predicted to have a 48% increase in its population overall.

In addition, the statistics do not reflect lifestyle changes. In other words, a number of factors are affecting people’s decisions about where they want to live in their later years and people in this age group may choose to stay in, leave or move to Rangitikei at a greater or lesser rate than predicted. Factors considered here are income, access to recreational and leisure services, access to health and social welfare services and access to appropriate housing.

Income of older people

One of the factors that affect lifestyle choices is income. Comparisons of income levels for this age group in Rangitikei and the “retirement hubs” indicates that, across all areas, older people live on relatively low incomes (about 70% live with a personal income of less than \$20,000, compared with about 45% across all age groups 15 years and over).



Comparisons of sources of income indicates that in older people in Rangitikei tend to be more reliant on earned income and NZ superannuation with less access to investment income or other pensions and annuities. In contrast, those aged 65+ in the “retirement hubs” have fewer people reliant on earned income and NZ superannuation and greater access to investment income and other pension provision. This confirms that at present, people of independent means do not “retire to” the Rangitikei.

Sources of Personal Income (Total Responses) by Age Group and Sex, for the Census Usually Resident Population Count Aged 65 Years and Over, 2006

	Earned Income	Interest, Dividends, Rent, Other Investments	NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension	Other Superannuation, Pensions or Annuities	Benefits (all other)
Total NZ	10%	24%	53%	8%	4%
Thames-Coromandel District	9%	26%	55%	7%	3%
Tauranga City	7%	28%	53%	8%	3%
Rangitikei District	13%	22%	56%	5%	3%
Kapiti Coast District	7%	27%	50%	12%	3%

Older Workers

The reality is that people are choosing to work longer, whether for financial or lifestyle reasons. With no compulsory retirement age¹, healthy older people are remaining in paid

¹ Abolished in 1999 under the Human Rights Act 1993

employment. With a changing labour market in New Zealand, there will be an increasing need to retain older workers as the traditional work-age pool shrinks.

Required increases in workforce participation (Sept 2006 estimates)

	% in work in 2006	% needed in work by 2026
55-59	78	85
60-64	60	71
65+	12	16

(equating to 95,000 extra people in employment)²

These trends appear to be particularly relevant in the Rangitikei. The median weekly earned income in this age group in the Manawatu-Wanganui region is \$570 (compared to \$500 nationally). The average weekly earned income is higher, indicating that the distribution favours lower earned income levels (and hence indicating part-time work as much as lower wage levels).

There are many advantages in retaining older workers in employment, including access to institutional knowledge, organisational loyalty and workforce diversity.

Access to recreation and leisure services

Whether or not people continue to work into older age, many have a great deal more leisure time and are looking to pursue a range of leisure activities. Access to leisure facilities such as, swimming pools, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, shops and so on, may be factors affecting lifestyle choices for later years as people lose family and work responsibilities and gain leisure time and pension or investment income. This may be enough for people to relocate from the District to the population centres of Wanganui or Palmerston North, if not further afield to the “retirement hubs”.

Access to health and social welfare services

Similarly, as people live longer, health needs in later life become more complex and the range of services that need to be available and accessible grows. Health services are increasingly centralised – out of necessity in order to remain affordable to the country – and accessing such services is another factor that needs to be considered when making choices about later life. Health concerns are another pull for older people to relocate from the District to Wanganui, Palmerston North or the “retirement hubs”.

Access to appropriate housing

As people age, their housing needs change – and the most fundamental changes are usually made in response to the transition from active older age to higher healthcare needs. In general, older people are being encouraged to “age in place”, that is, to remain in their own homes until they get to the stage where they cannot cope, even with regular assistance and people are increasingly planning ahead for these changes.

² McGregor 2006, Employment of Older Workers

Retirement villages have become increasingly popular through being able to provide these types of properties, as well as associated services and facilities that allow people to live independently, with increasing support available in response to need. However, retirement villages are run on a user-pays basis, and so they are limited to those who have sufficient resources available to fund the ongoing service fees and charges.

No retirement villages have yet been established in the Rangitikei, and only a small number of rest homes operate in the District. While there is likely greater need for these kinds of facilities, the recent closure of the facility in Taihape indicates the fragile economics of elder care in rural areas.

Nonetheless, the housing stock demand profile is predicted to change with the increase in the older age groups. The most common housing stock available in New Zealand is the 3 bedroom family home. While in the Rangitikei there is some diversity, this is also the most common house type in the District. It is expected that there will be significant demand for 1-2 bedroom homes or units on small sections. However, with a declining population, particularly in the younger age groups that usually buy 3-bedroomed family homes, older people may not be able to freely trade-in their property for something more suited to their needs.

Potential impact of issues over accessibility

The demographic changes predicted by Statistics New Zealand do not take into account the range of responses and choices available to people as a result of greater life expectancy, longer active, healthy lives and higher and prolonged healthcare needs in later life. There is already anecdotal evidence of some long-term residents moving away from the District, to Feilding, Wanganui, Palmerston North to ensure that they can easily access increasingly centralised healthcare services as well as more "things to do". Although many active older people are very mobile with their own cars, mounting concern over driving, or the costs of driving, are affecting people's willingness to travel by car to access services and the prospect of relocation to larger service centres appears more attractive. If this trend grows, then the projections for the demographic change in the District may yet be proved wrong. The greatest counter to this is an expanded public transport system which would help people to plan to stay in the District.

However, the Rangitikei has limited public transport options throughout the District. There are limited buses, and the passenger trains are also infrequent. Of the buses who do stop in the area, few are suitably equipped for people of limited mobility (i.e. wheelchairs or scooters). The taxi services in the District are also limited. A health shuttle service is run from St John's in Marton to provide transport to Whanganui or Mid-Central DHB services. The shuttle is a free service for those who need it, although donations are accepted. It may be that more flexible and innovative public transport services, such as community transport and volunteer car schemes, can help to fill the gaps.

Council's role in supporting Older People in the District

Community Advocacy and Leadership

Many of the services that are essential to the health and wellbeing of older people in the District are not provided by Council. The whole of the District is covered by the Whanganui DHB, and the majority of services are provided in Wanganui – particularly hospital level care (secondary and tertiary/specialist services). Various government departments provide funding and services for health, education and social services through a variety of direct and indirect mechanisms. Due to limits placed on resources, often rural districts get less than their “fair share”.

Council may want to consider the extent of its advocacy and leadership role to work with other public sector agencies to secure these services in the District.

Investment in leisure and community facilities

Council is aware of the need to review its leisure and community assets to respond to demographic changes and changes in resident's expectations of what Council will provide. It is likely that for this particular demographic i.e. older people, Council will need to be aware of the needs of two distinct groups; the active older person (with time and resources for active leisure pursuits) and those with impaired mobility and access issues.

One of the unknowns for the Council is whether or not more affluent older people from our District are exercising their choice to move to areas, such as the “retirement hubs”, where leisure and health facilities are more easily accessible. Council may want to consider whether it would be valuable to work with focus groups of these groups in undertaking the consultation over leisure and community assets.

Perhaps, particularly, Council will want to consider the role of its existing provision of community housing in the changing housing needs of this group both if this is the right provision and if Council is the right provider, and if not, then how can Council encourage a better mix of housing stock that will meet these needs.

Support for community activity

The “active older” group is capable and resourceful, with life experience, time and/or money to see to their own needs. Many community groups, clubs and societies meet the leisure and social needs of this group and, indeed rely upon this pool of willing volunteers to manage their affairs and organise their activities.

The District also has a good number of sports clubs that cater for older people, for example bowls, golf and croquet. There are interest groups (e.g. quilters, floral art, writers group), service clubs (e.g. Lions, Rotary, Freemasons) and friendship clubs, as well as advocacy groups such as Grey Power, and groups that provide social welfare services, such as Age Concern. A great example in Rangitikei is the Older and Bolder Group in Taihape which provides a range of organised activities for local people.

A vibrant and active community sector is one of the things that people value about small communities and is one of the strengths in our District. Council could look to maximise its

assistance for community groups. There is an identified need to create better connectivity between groups that provide services to older people in the District with the outcome that more social welfare services are delivered under contract from statutory agencies, such as the health sector and Ministry for Social Development into the District. There are many good practice examples where a coordinator, part-funded by various statutory agencies can actively encourage community groups to work together and share resources, ensure that both strategic and succession planning are well managed, and support them to secure local contracts for service delivery.

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy

In conclusion, people are living longer³, tend to remain active longer and to remain in the workforce longer. The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, published in 2001 established 10 principles as a framework for integrating policies and programmes across the government sector. From this work, the Office of Senior Citizens (part of the Ministry of Social Development) has identified three priority areas as follows:

- Employment of Mature Workers - encouraging flexible work options and opportunities for older workers to remain in work
- Changing Attitudes about Ageing - promoting inter-generational programmes and reinforcing the important contribution older people make to their communities
- Protecting the Rights and Interests of Older People – by raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect prevention.

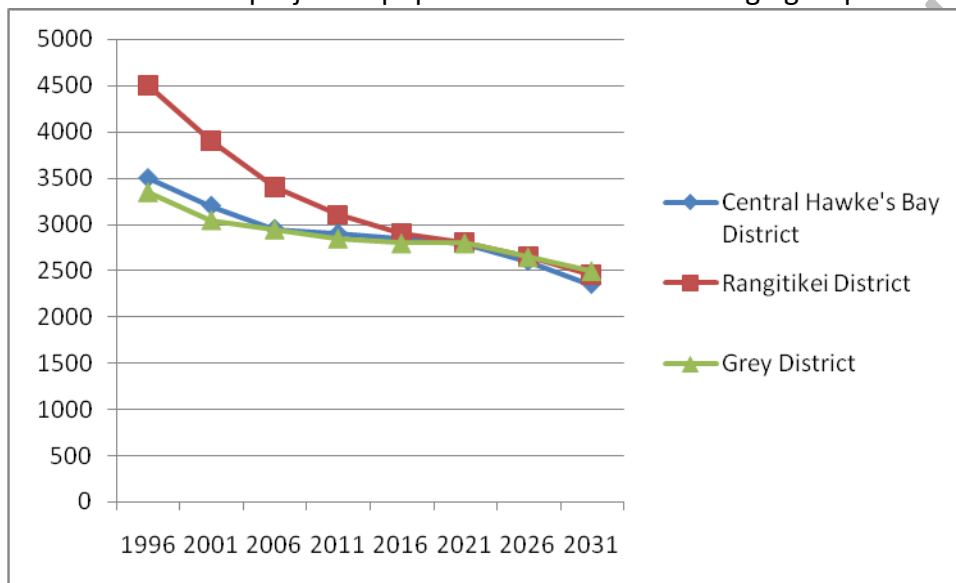
³ Increased life expectancy is a factor of healthier diets, lifestyles and improvements in healthcare services.

Section 2: Young People

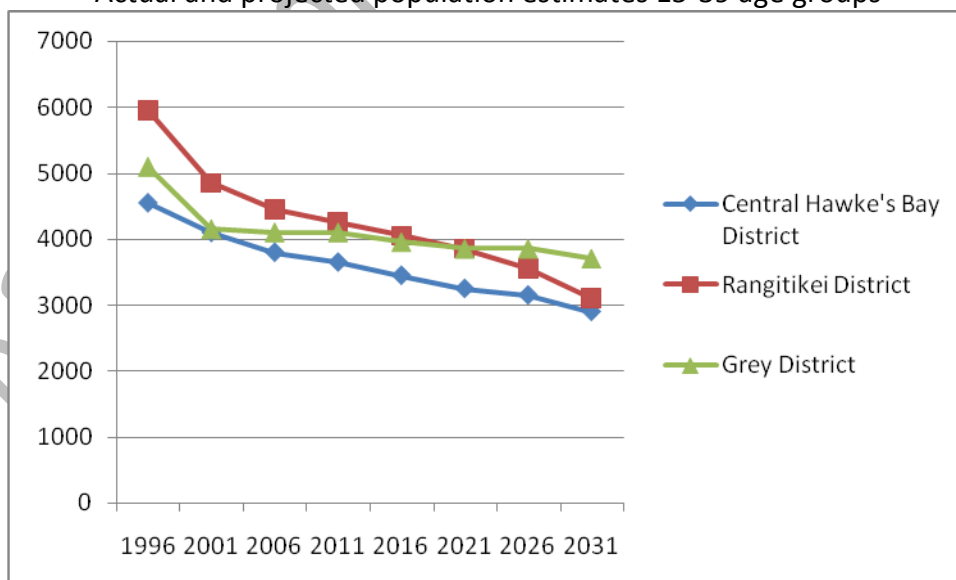
Statistics New Zealand population projections

It has been noted that demographic change in the Rangitikei has led to a “hollowing out” of the younger age groups. This phenomenon has slowed down but is predicted to continue. It is not specific to Rangitikei – it is common to the peer group of Councils (Central Hawke’s Bay and Grey) - but has been more pronounced in Rangitikei.

Actual and projected population estimates 0-14 age groups



Actual and projected population estimates 15-39 age groups



The proportion of these age groups in Rangitikei has dropped from 62% in 1996 to 49% in 2011 and is predicted to drop a further few percentage points to 43% in 2031.

Ministry for Youth Development statistics

The MYD have a website of District-level statistics which draws together statistics from a range of sources (<http://www.youthstats.myd.govt.nz/regional/index.html>). The MYD define youth as aged between 12 and 24.

The data available from this website is collated in Appendix 1 alongside the data from the peer group of authorities (Central Hawke's Bay, Clutha, Grey, Manawatu and Tararua). The demographic profile that emerges matches the profile of the District: under-representation of this age group in the general population, bi-cultural rather than multi-cultural, with a lower educational attainment than the national average. Interestingly there are higher proportions of young people in employment than the national average, with fewer young people living in conditions of over-crowding or low income. However, there are also higher proportions of young people in receipt of benefit – this mix of young people either in employment or in receipt of benefit possibly reflects the lack of opportunities for tertiary education that can be accessed from within the District.

Our young people seem to smoke more than their national counterparts but also take part in more voluntary activity. However, there is nothing that particularly marks them out from within the peer group of authorities.

Rangitikei Youth Survey

The community in Marton had identified a key outcome of the Community Development programme as “Young people actively involved in the community - Young people feel that they are an important, respected part of the community and actively participate in community projects.”

The Community Development Project in Marton recently undertook a survey amongst young people 14-18 in Marton and Taihape – mainly through the High Schools but also collecting responses on the school buses from Marton to Palmerston North, Feilding and Wanganui. Preliminary results are given in the Appendix.

Almost 300 responses were received from young people aged between 13 and 18: over three quarters were still at school and the remainder were either in work or other training. Respondents were more likely to be female and of Māori ethnicity than implied by the District-wide statistics. They mostly lived with Mum and/or Dad, tended to use positive adjectives to describe themselves and were positive about living in the Rangitikei.

The respondents were asked where major improvements for young people were needed and they identified the following:

- Places to hang out (27%)
- More job opportunities (25%)
- More leisure opportunities (24%)

Marton Moving Forward Conference

At the recent Marton Moving Forward conference, organised by the Community Development Project and facilitated by social entrepreneur, Peter Kenyon, one of the three sessions was devoted to engaging young people within small town and rural communities. He gave several key messages to the conference:

- Too often, communities see young people as problems to be addressed rather than assets to be used, supported and nurtured.
- Attracting and retaining young people, including those in the 25-40 age group (who start families and businesses, buy houses and provide the volunteers for a range of community activities, particularly out-of-school-activities) is a community responsibility that requires concerted and sustained effort.
- Communities which value their young people and give them an experience of childhood and adolescence which engenders civic and community pride and provide opportunities for expression and personal development have a better chance of attracting back and/or retaining their young people⁴.
- Communities which stay in touch with their young people, when they leave to have further experiences outside their home community, and welcome them back when they return, have got the right attitude!

Council's Role

Peter Kenyon identified that the whole community response to engaging young people is key. The question is, what role can and should Council play in this?

The 2010 Communitrak survey introduced the question "is Council doing enough to make the District attractive to youth?" The result was that 52% of residents feel that Council is doing enough/more than enough whilst 40% felt that there was not enough/nowhere near enough being done. Those who felt that enough or more than enough was being done tended to be men and residents in the age groups 18-39 and 60+ years. Those who felt that not enough or nowhere near enough was being done tended to be women, residents in the 30-59 age group and those who were more recently resident in the District.

So, while a small majority feel that Council is doing enough to make the District attractive to young people, a significant minority feel the reverse.

In the Communitrak survey, those who felt Council could do more, suggested:

⁴ Peter Kenyon highlighted the success of the **ruMAD(making a difference)?** programme across Australia. Its website states "Think of ruMAD? as a toolkit that enables young people to lead social change and become active citizens. It is focused on values and led by students but benefits the whole community." In essence it is a programme that works with schools to develop projects that nurture leadership, promote a sense of belonging and develop civic responsibility across all school-age groups.

- More recreational facilities/activities/attractions (12% - but 15% in Marton)
- More job opportunities/work schemes/training schemes (7%)
- Nothing for younger people to do (6%)
- Nowhere for young people to go/need a Youth Centre/Drop-in Centre (6% - but 15% Turakina and 9% in Hunterville)

These were echoed in the results from the Rangitikei Youth Survey.

Family Friendly Rangitikei

One of the keys to encouraging back those in the 25-39 age group is to promote the District as a great place to raise a family. Anecdotal evidence indicates that for Marton at least, the close proximity to larger centres such as Feilding, Wanganui and Palmerston North means that some people have made the decision to live and raise their family in the District whilst commuting for work.

It may be worthwhile for Council to consider what has made this choice attractive to them with a view to ensuring that it maximises the opportunity.

As in other areas, Council's role relates both to the services it provides directly, such as Leisure and Community Assets, and to its community leadership role, as supporter and facilitator of community action.

The Marton Community Development project is working with a group in Marton to look at developing a youth space, possibly in an existing Council-owned facility. Council's role in supporting and facilitating this initiative is clear: both through its action to secure and host the Community Development Project and as provider of community facilities.

Council has also recognised an issue over out-of-District schooling in the southern Rangitikei and has established two scholarships with Rangitikei College to encourage local young people to stay in the District for their High School experience.

It has also recently secured a contract with Ministry of Social Development for a Youth Employment/Business Support officer to work in Marton to broker job opportunities between local young people and local businesses.

These initiatives have operated outside of any policy or strategy, often as piecemeal or opportunistic responses to issues. They are in addition to a range of responses from within the community, ranging from the Hut in Taihape and KiwiCan in Marton, to sports clubs and other out-of-school activities developed by church and community groups across the District.

Youth Policies/Strategies/Plans

There is a wealth of literature available from a range of agencies describing good practice and other initiatives that have been taken by local authorities around the world. In New Zealand, the Ministry for Youth Development (MYD) has produced "An Introduction and

Context for the Development of Youth Policy – a guide for local government”⁵ which provides detailed best practice guidelines in developing a Youth Policy.

The MYD have also developed a Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa⁶ which takes a youth centred focus and MYD suggests aligning any Youth Policy with this strategy, not least because that helps to secure opportunities for further funding, from MYD and other sources.

The Council has considered developing a Youth Policy in the past but has been wary of straying outside of its core service areas and the additional costs to the ratepayer that could be incurred. The guidance provided by the MYD publication recognises that any policy or strategy must be appropriate to the local situation and provides a useful guide to ensuring that where resources could be used to promote youth development, they are used strategically and cumulatively. Examples of best practice provided in the publication include Waimakirikiri (see <http://www.waiyouth.net.nz/>) and Stratford (see <http://www.stratfordyouthcouncil.com/>) where actions that are relevant for the particular local circumstances have been developed.

The Council could consider again developing a Youth Strategy⁷. The aim in the Rangitikei would be to help the District to promote itself as a great place to raise a family, where children and young people are valued for their contribution to the community and are given an experience of childhood and adolescence that they will want for their own children in due course.

⁵ <http://www.myd.govt.nz/about-myd/publications/youth-policy.html>

⁶ <http://www.myd.govt.nz/about-myd/publications/youth-development-strategy-aotearoa.html>

⁷ Funding may be available to support this: the MYD has an annual funding round, the Youth Development Partnership Fund⁷ that is only accessible by local authorities and is specifically for “seed funding or project costs to support councils engage with young people, to respond to local need, and to establish best-practice, locally-relevant initiatives”. The current round is open until mid-March 2011.

Section 3: Tangata Whenua and Māori population

Overview

According to the statistics (section 1), Māori in the Rangitikei, as elsewhere across New Zealand, tend to be younger, earn lower incomes, are more likely to leave school without formal qualifications than the general average for the Rangitikei and tend to have a lower life-expectancy than their European counterparts.

In addition, the proportion of the Māori population in the District is rising and is likely to be increasingly dominant in the younger age groups (under 40 years). The future prosperity of the District, therefore, will become increasingly dependent on the increased prosperity of its Māori residents, particularly its younger ones.

Iwi are increasingly becoming masters of their destiny as the Waitangi Treaty Settlement process proceeds. In the south of the District, Ngati Apa have recently been through the claims process and the Taihape Inquiry in the north has just begun. Opportunities need to be identified for Council and other public service agencies to support iwi and hapu to raise educational, economic and health outcomes for their people⁸.

Increasing understanding of Māori culture

Although the District has a bi-cultural population, there is a sense of “us and them” operating between the cultures. This was evident at the Marton Moving Forward conference⁹ and highlighted as a priority for the town in moving forward. It is perhaps also evident in the divergence of opinion between Māori and non-Māori whether or not there is adequate opportunity for Māori to participate in Council decision-making (see below) and in some of the submissions to the recent District Plan review over the inclusion of sites of significance to Māori as part of the landscape assessment.

The basis for improving any inter-cultural relationship is increasing familiarity with each others’ cultural practices, beliefs and aspirations and developing the personal relationships between people that break down fear and prejudice.

Council has developed a structure for its relationships with iwi and hapu through its iwi advisory committee, Te Roopu Ahi Kaa (TRAK). There are good interactions with, and relationships between, Councillors and officers and the Ratana movement, which has its spiritual centre in the District. There is also a representative from Ratana on TRAK.

Council has begun to progress in its relationship with iwi and hapu through the incremental implementation of TRAK’s strategic plan. This focuses on increasing understanding of Māori

⁸ There are excellent local examples of projects which have begun to address some of these issues. For example, the Marton and Surrounds ICT Hub which has developed computer suites in Marton and Ratana specifically to address “digital disadvantage” (considered by the Department of Internal Affairs to apply more to older people, rural communities and Māori/Pacific Island ethnicities) and the Taihape Area School has developed a whanau and iwi community engagement approach in response to the high levels of truancy and lack of engagement from students.

⁹ See section 3 Young People for details of the conference

culture amongst Councillors and Council staff, including linking back Ward Councillors with their local marae. It is important that Council, at every level, continues to model the behaviours and attitudes that it wants to encourage within the resident population: tolerance, acceptance and positivity.

Democratic process

Council is an institution aligned based on the European model of the democratic process. Māori governance systems are traditionally based on tribal boundaries, familial affiliations and hierarchies. Both systems can be formal and intimidating to the uninitiated. Council, however, has an obligation to encourage participation from all its residents in its processes and decision-making and needs to create an open, understanding environment that people from all backgrounds and cultures can feel is relevant to their lives.

The question was asked in the Communitrak survey 2010, about 'Opportunities for Māori to Participate in Council Decision-Making'. The table below gives the responses:

	More than enough/ enough (%)	Not enough / nowhere near enough (%)	Don't know
NZ European	72	5	23
NZ Māori	47	30	22

It is important that Māori feel that they have enough opportunity to contribute to Council decision-making, irrespective of the perception of non-Māori. The interaction between Council and its iwi advisory committee (Te Roopu Ahi Kaa) is a good start. Nonetheless, there has been little formal engagement with Māori in the District outside of this structure. The Council should take steps to both support TRAK in its representative role and to ensure that representation by Māori at all levels of its organisation is reflective of the local population.

The Ministry of Health's 'Whanau Ora Health Impact Assessment'¹⁰ is a tool produced for policy makers to use in order to understand the implications policies may have on Maori. Maori as a population group, on average, have the poorest health status of any group in New Zealand. Contributing factors to the poor state of Maori health are the uneven distribution and representation of Maori in the key determinants of health¹¹ (for example in come, housing education and employment).

The strategic framework of Whanau Ora (He Korowai Oranga) outlines the key themes that need to be considered by policy makers and could be included as a basis for a reporting requirement for Council funded activities:

- The need to ensure Maori involvement in decision making

¹⁰ Ministry of Health (2007). 'Whanau Ora Health Impact Assessment.' Retrieved from <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/whanau-ora-hia-2007>

¹¹ Ministry of Health (2007) 'Whanau Ora Health Impact Assessment' Foreword, page iii.

- The need to work directly with whanau, hapu, iwi and Maori communities
- The need for all services (not just Maori-specific services) to be effective for Maori
- The importance of all sectors (not just the health sector) working to address Maori health outcomes.

In 2011, Council will begin to undertake its statutory representation review. This last took place in 2006 and Te Roopu Ahi Kaa discussed whether or not the Māori wards electing dedicated representation to the Council table would complement or over-shadow the current focus on developing the relationship between the Komiti and Councillors.

Capacity building

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa has representatives from the 12 iwi and hapu groups within the District, including a representative from Ratana Paa. The table below outlines the number of Māori affiliating to our tangata whenua who live within the district (or tribal rohe):

Table: Iwi usually resident population count 2001, 2006 Census¹²

Area	2001	2006
Total NZ	604,110	643,977
Rangitikei District	3,726	3,798
Mangaweka	39	27
Huntermville	135	99
Ratana Paa	375	336
Bulls	396	414
Ngamatea	n/a	3
Moawhango	174	180
Pohonui-Porewa	339	366
Lake Alice	402	414
Koitiata	18	18
Taihape	690	675
Marton	1,155	1,260

¹² Statistics NZ, 2001 Census & 2006 Census. Retrieved from - <http://wdmzpub01.stats.govt.nz/wds/TableViewer/summary.aspx>

Census-based iwi population figures are subjective – they rely on an individual declaring all of the iwi they are aware that they affiliate to. Te Runanga o Ngati Apa have just under 7,500 individuals registered as affiliated to the iwi. Ngati Apa have conducted research over the past 15 years and uncovered that less than 6% of Ngati Apa descendants live within the tribal rohe. Ngati Apa have estimated there are a further 10,000 – 20,000 individuals of Ngati Apa descent that are not yet registered with the Runanga. Some of these individuals may not yet be aware of their familial link to Ngati Apa.

Over the last seven years Ngati Apa have experienced an increase in the number of people registering with the iwi. Some of the resource Ngati Apa received as part of their Treaty Settlement was for ‘cultural revitalization.’ It is anticipated, more Ngati Apa descendants will return to the traditional rohe as a result. The below table outlines the number of people affiliated to Ngati Apa and Ngati Hauiti (two iwi within the district) total in New Zealand, and of those how many are living within the Rangitikei¹³.

Table: 2006 Census Ngati Apa & Ngati Hauiti populations – national and resident within the district¹⁴

	Within Rangitikei	Nationally
Ngati Apa	1455	2388
Ngati Hauiti	1002	1038

The capacity and capability of iwi within the district to engage and participate in Council’s processes varies from iwi to iwi and is linked, in part, to Treaty claim settlements and processes. To date only one iwi within the Rangitikei District, Ngati Apa, have been through the Treaty of Waitangi Claims process¹⁵. The Taihape Waitangi Inquiry has just begun in the north of the District with several claims being considered as part of that process, including the Mokai Patea¹⁶ grouping of iwi. Council officers have been attending the hearings to understand the claim process and hope to identify where Council can work with iwi in the north to secure the best outcome for the District.

Nonetheless, it is Council’s requirement to ensure engagement with iwi in its processes. For those iwi who have fewer resources than others, this can mean that they are less able to have an input. Council has offered officer time and funding for community development processes to support this capacity building. This process is in early stages but represents an opportunity to improve Council’s support for Māori development.

¹³ Figures not available for the other iwi in the district from Statistics New Zealand.

¹⁴ Statistics NZ, 2001 Census & 2006 Census. Retrieved from - <http://wdmzpub01.stats.govt.nz/wds/TableViewer/summary.aspx>

¹⁵ Ngati Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act assented to on 15 December 2010.

¹⁶ Grouping includes: Ngati Hauiti, Ngati Hinemanu, Ngati Tamakopiri, Ngati Whitikaupeka, Ngati Paki, Ngai Te Ohuake, Ngati Rangi