
Minutes of the Waimate District Council
Cultural Focus Group Meeting held in the
local Government Centre, Queen Street,
Waimate on 29th June at 6:00pm.



In Attendance

Ms Lynda Ramsay (Senior Policy Analyst)
Ms Carolyn Johns (Community Services Manager)
Ms Jamie Halkett (Administration Assistant)
His Worship the Mayor John Coles
Councillor James Gibson
Councillor Jim Rayner
Kevin Tiffen (Resource Planner) (left at break)
Brent Donaldson (Planning and Regulatory Manager) (left at break)

Apologies

Ministry of Culture and Heritage
Principals Association
Waimate Line Dancing
Yoga – John Guthrie
Waihao Marae – Wendy Heath

The Group was welcomed by His Worship the Mayor John Coles.

Carolyn Johns introduced the Staff and present Councillors and explained the format of the evening. The minutes would be available to everyone on line at www.waimate.org.nz and they would also be posted out to attendees.

Presentation by Lynda Ramsay

Lynda gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Focus group meetings and how it relates to the LTCCP. We want to get to know the members of our Cultural focus group in the community and have a chance for issues within their group or club to be heard.

Power Point presentation which was from Ministry of Culture and Heritage, explaining “what is Culture” How do we plan for it? What has it got to do with Councils?

Introduction of Attendees

<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Issue/Concern</i>
Waitaha Tawhenua O Waitaki Trust Board Inc	Cultural aspects in Waimate. A general interest in the library.
NZ Historical Places Trust	Plan for the future of historical sites and the Theatre
Project Waimate	Whole focus is Cultural Heritage. And the possibility of a Bushman statue in Waimate.
Creative New Zealand	No issues or concerns and a general interest in culture.
Bushtown Waimate Inc	Our town and anything that we can do to promote it.
Friends of Kelceys Bush	Our town and anything that we can do to promote it.
Friends of Lister Home	Our town and anything that we can do to promote it.
Waimate High School	Drama and theatrical and the 10 year plan at the high school for these and the issue of more space.
Scapino Theatre	Interested into see what is happening with culture in Waimate.
Regent Theatre Trust Board	Improve amenities and public perception of the theatre.
Waimate Genealogy Society	No issues or concern and a general interest in culture.
Federation of Women's Institute Interest	No issues or concern and a general interest in culture.
Kidz Choir	Very interested in arts and the need for a smaller performing multipurpose arts theatre.
Waimate Arts Society	Use of arts rooms for events promoting events and a general interest in culture.
Middle Eastern Dance Group/Belly Dancing	How the Council sees the street frontage looking in the future and are we to save the old buildings? This is an ongoing problem every time an old building changes ownership and a general interest in the library.

Presentation on Heritage and Geo-preservation sites by Kevin Tiffen

Explained section 6F of the Management Act

Heritage protection is a big part of it as well which protects important heritage buildings, objects, properties and places of special interest by scheduling them in a category e.g. A,B,C.

The Waimate District Plan contains:

22 category A Items, 23 category B items, 96 category C items, Which includes things like historic sites, archaeological sites, sites significant to Maori and surrounding associated with the natural and physical resources.

Council also identifies in the District Plan, sites of natural significance. There are 53 known sites: these include mountain ranges, lakes, steams, rivers, wetlands and native bush.

Meeting convened at 6:55pm for Tea reconvened 7:30pm

Update on Waimate Sport and Recreation Plan

Lynda Ramsay updated us on where we are at on the Sport and Recreation Plan which includes art and culture and we want to go beyond sport and have our own Arts and culture plan as well. It is also a chance for people to voice their group's views and the public view of the Sport and Recreation Plan.

There is also a need for maybe someone else from the arts and culture area of Waimate to be in our Steering Group for the Sport and Recreation Plan to represent culture.

The Sport and Recreation Plan, SPARC may help to finance the plan which is in the process at the moment.

Some community outcomes we have already identified is being health is a very important key for people in Waimate and the value of our young people staying in the Waimate community.

Surveys have been sent out to Clubs, Organisations and Facilities which we are focusing on Sports and Recreation at this time, which where made up of questions the Steering group collated to be more informed of what facilities are used and by which clubs, the numbers of members in your Cub or Organisation. The next stage is for the individual surveys to be circulated. The plan is to be thought to take 12 months to complete.

The promotion of the individual survey is critical, as we will need over 400 answered surveys to achieve statistical integrity, so when the individual survey is released we need to get the word out to fill them in and send them back as soon as possible.

There is a presentation for the Sport and Recreation Stage of the Plan displayed at 84 Queen Street building Waimate, so watch this space as we progress.

Presentation Library services and resources by Carolyn Johns

Carolyn gave a briefing on Council roles, Library Standards, and the level of service currently given. Findings in a recent study that according to the recommended Standards that the Waimate Districts library is significantly undersized and should be offering greater range of resources and services.

Group Discussions on library services and resources

The Attendees of the Cultural Focus Group then broke into three groups to discuss the services and resources in the Waimate library.

From each library discussion group we have recorded what they have proposed or suggested services and resources. Some maybe repeated as each group discussed a variety of services and resources. Carolyn suggested that we ideas that can be addressed straight way or 2005/06 year, and will identify ideas that have barriers.

Group One

- Need for more work space.
- Coffee – Lounge suits – Place to relax.
- Sound station with talking and music.
- Small intimate theatre.
- More computers.
- More staff – Help desk.
- Simpler systems to access information.
- Better Access to other libraries.
- Access to books on line.
- Work with school on library services.
- Art collection – to hire?
- Internet access and training.
- Seven day week opening.
- Book Club – Book review nights.
- Door to door service to the library.
- Magazine collection could be extended.
- Alternative movies – Art house movie collection to hire.

Group Two

- More user friendly for people.
- Could sit and chat – Arm chairs.
- Library café.
- Mobile library - ordering online.
- Sending books sent out by R.D. Mail delivery by ordering online.
- Archive section.
- Happy the way it is – Service is excellent.
- Internet – Computer Facilities.
- Special needs – Students software
- Bigger children's play area.
- Story time for children.
- More finance for buying latest books
- Catalogue list between School, Public library, Genealogy and Theatre.

Group Three

- Services for people that do not have access to the internet.
- Mobile library bus
- Hampers of library books
- Volunteer base – home care people able to choose multiply books for their client.
- Pool of volunteers to choose books for people, like meals on wheels, even join it up to meals on wheels.
- Hire of art works, with a link to literature about the artwork.
- Touring books and C.D's
- Storage in the library – not too close to the floor.
- Sloped bottom shelf to assist reading book titles.
- Computer facilities – Reference, public access.
- Special library reference data bases.
- Email services for visitors.
- Larger range of videos and DVD's.
- Display space for artworks produced in the community.
- Improved notice board space.
- Better Monitoring of library services.
- Kid's area with beanbags.
- More space for Children
- Comfy chairs for reading.
- Interactive guide to local attractions.
- Define functions of information centre. Information centre and library should they be separate or together.
- Avoid fragmentation of services around town.
- Room for a whole school class to visit.
- Homework areas with computers.
- Computer activities that teach children, additional to the toy library.
- Intermediate age library.
- Cheaper access to the national library.
- Review large print e.g. more reference books.
- An area for people to meet and play board games.
- Educational talks, evenings
- Coffee machine – good coffee.
- A good selection of brail books.
- Music area with head phones and music simulator for the deaf.

Proposed next meeting is sooner rather than later October/November being too late more like September/October as there is the urgent issue of that a number of cultural groups are contemplating the building of a small theatre which needs to be discussed sooner rather than later. There was a call for a coordinator to be appointed to get the discussion going between all groups to see if we can work together on the project instead of individual groups.

Councillor Jim Rayner will be organising a meeting between all groups.

Meeting Finished at 9:00pm