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# te Kenuhera

C O M M U N I T Y P L A N



Our Village - Our Future



# V I L L A G E

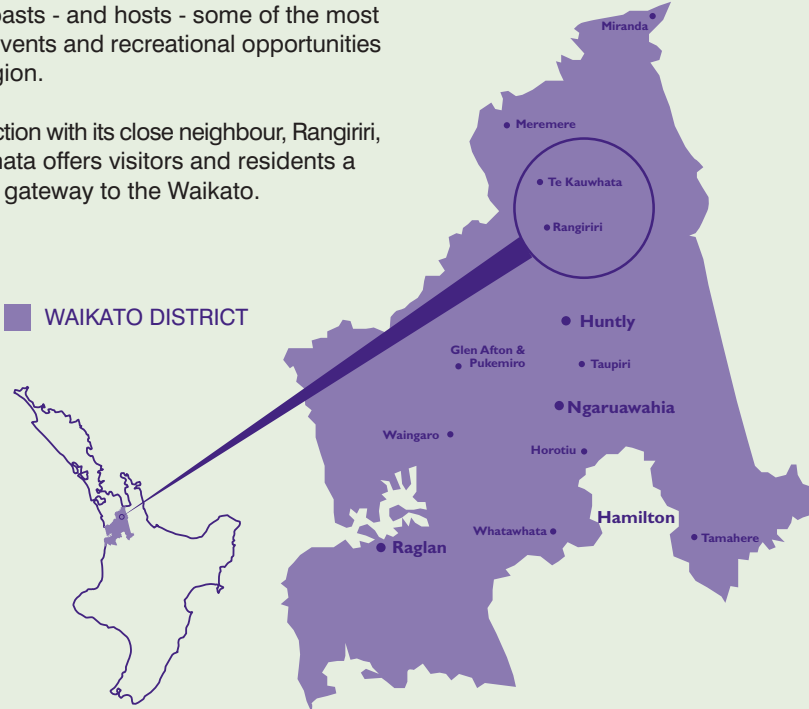
Te Kauwhata lies in the north of the Waikato District, and is aptly described as the rich horticultural basket of New Zealand's central North Island.

With a growing population (currently 1,095), Te Kauwhata village offers a great lifestyle for young and old. There's a choice of housing and land options set in peaceful, rural surrounds conveniently only 45 minutes from Auckland and even less to Hamilton. The village offers a hint of excitement and vibrancy as the village boasts - and hosts - some of the most exciting events and recreational opportunities in this region.

In conjunction with its close neighbour, Rangiriri, Te Kauwhata offers visitors and residents a delightful gateway to the Waikato.

Justifiably proud of its viticultural heritage, stunning scenery, unique flora and local wildlife, numerous talented craftspeople, and strong agricultural and horticultural base, Te Kauwhata provides a lifestyle and destination to suit a wide range of interests.

Making the most of Te Kauwhata's great lifestyle and location requires planning for the present and future - whilst preserving elements of the past the community considers essential to its character and appeal.



	Te Kauwhata	Rangiriri	Waikato District	New Zealand
Population	1,095	108	39,855	3,737,277
Occupied Dwellings	432	36	13,530	1,368,207
Ethnicity: NZ Maori (as a percentage of local population)	22.9%	30.5%	27.1%	14.7%
Percentage aged under 15 years	22.5%	33.3%	26.9%	22.7%
Percentage aged over 65 years	22.7%		9.8%	12.1%

Source: 2001 New Zealand census of population and dwellings - area unit basis for Te Kauwhata - meshblocks 0938602 and 0936002 for Rangiriri



# C O M M U N I T Y P L A N

A community plan for Te Kauwhata and the surrounding area will enable current and potential residents, visitors and investors to guide, and benefit from, the inevitable growth and development that will occur in this area.

Your community plan is a collection of ideas for action. It is a priority list of desired works and activities that the Community Committee has collected from public comment.

Considering the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the people and the community, the plan gives voice to local aims and aspirations and provides an opportunity for involvement by all who are interested in the future of this area.

Local leadership on community planning, now, will ensure that available resources are used in the best possible way by matching agreed community priorities.

This community plan will:

- focus community debate and get people involved in making decisions and taking responsibility for Te Kauwhata and the surrounding area
- help avoid haphazard development
- safeguard the community and protect what we value about the environment
- capture all good ideas and secure external funding for suitable initiatives
- assist Community Committee decision-making and allow more effective use of ratepayer funds
- help influence Waikato District Council's programme of works during its annual and long-term planning processes
- clearly identify the key partnerships that must develop between the community and local and central government agencies.

## The plan is grouped into three key areas of focus:

### V I L L A G E L I F E S T Y L E

- Accommodation options
- Community well-being and safety
- Employment
- Recreation and leisure

### V I L L A G E L A N D S C A P E

- Essential services such as roads, water, refuse
- Parks and reserves and natural features

### V I L L A G E E X P E R I E N C E

- Local features, history and culture
- National and international events promotion

*NOTE: Projects are shown in order of priority based on the views of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee and feedback from the public consultation phase.*

## Accommodation Options

A variety of lifestyle choices in and around Te Kauwhata beckon. With its rural surrounds the village offers home-ownership or rental options for a range of section sizes and styles of living - lifestyle and small blocks, farms and farmlets, family or apartment-style housing, and residential care for the elderly.

### Projects

- Offer a variety of lot sizes while retaining rural features such as the trees and open spaces
- Control the amount of infill housing to retain a more open feel for urban areas
- Establish a standard for rural-residential housing developments
- Encourage more residents by promoting the village as a lifestyle location - close to major centres and recreational activities - catering for all ages
- Assist prospective developers with appropriate accommodation options which support the village theme of Te Kauwhata

## Community Well-being and Safety

Providing for the health and welfare of residents includes considering their physical and emotional well-being. Promotion of the village lifestyle concept requires the reassurance of safety and security.

### Projects

- Improve street lighting and footpaths so that residents and visitors can make their way around the village safely
- Utilise the existing facilities as a focus for celebrations and activities
- Encourage participation in social education opportunities like care and craft activities, music, the arts, and drama
- Work with youth groups to promote interest and membership from youth in the community
- Promote equal access to health and social services and personal support
- Provide kerbing ramps for mobility scooters at street corners and crossings
- Support the principles of life-long learning by promoting opportunities for higher participation and achievement levels in formal education (including Te Kauwhata College, local primary schools and early childhood learning centres)
- Increase support for the 'neighbourhood watch' initiatives so that all residential areas are covered
- Conduct local Safer Communities Council programmes, such as the 'safe with age' seminars, on at least an annual basis
- Address excessive noise from things like traffic and recreation events (There is a need to take into account noise effects on property surrounding a house (not just at the house), with effort being put into reducing the noise)

# Employment

Supporting local businesses and industry makes the area attractive to shoppers and investors, which in turn builds the economy.

Development should be staged in a planned way so that the unique character of Te Kauwhata is retained.

## Projects

- Encourage small to medium sized niche industries related to wine making, food processing and tourism

- Provide areas away from the main street (and lake) and residential areas for industrial activities
- Ensure that access to buildings in Main Street is available from the rear of the shops
- Organise a campaign aimed at supporting local business
- Look to develop and infill Main Street to strengthen the village as a shopping centre

# Recreation and Leisure

The clean, green, wide-open spaces of the rural setting for Te Kauwhata are to be preserved. Areas designated as parks and reserves need to be designed to accommodate a range of users (themed gardens, rest areas, sports fields, playgrounds), carefully maintained and well signposted. Promotion of existing and new leisure activities is to be encouraged, again, within the character of the area.

Promotion and greater utilisation of the Fitness Centre and College facilities is recommended to maximise local and regional benefit.

## Projects

- Work with Environment Waikato to improve the quality of the water in Lake Waikare
- Improve access to, and the facilities at, Lake Waikare: fence off the ponds; provide a picnic table; replant around the lake; promote it as a venue for kayaking, cycling and running events for local schools or national events
- Continue with the development of walkways and cycleways around the village and Lake Waikare, and between the two - ensuring that the surface and width is suitable for all users - and link with heritage trails and other points of interest, and the National Wetlands Trust development
- Develop the village green at the entrance to the Main Road showcasing the village

colours and theme, for example, with commissioned ironwork in the shape of a conical trellis for trees/plants. The park requires additional work, specifically: extra tables and chairs; continuation of the chain/post fence; complementary planting and more signage to give the visitor options for their next stop

- Add to the village green/park by providing an open area for recreation to the north of the current park - linked by a walkbridge - and plant with old varieties of trees, perhaps creating a heritage orchard attraction
- Encourage the community to support the Te Kauwhata Health Awareness Project
- Investigate the development and promotion of the Domain as a camping site, with signage, additional tree planting and the provision of (eco) toilet facilities
- Identify the recreation and leisure needs of the youth (beyond skateparks)
- Identify and purchase land of strategic significance to the town - scenic spots, historical sites
- Improve parking facilities, signage and traffic control in recreation areas



## Essential Infrastructural Services

Enabling movement of people, goods and services around the area with ease and safety is the goal. Adequate roads, footpaths, water, refuse collection and waste minimisation are all essential services for a growing community.

### Projects

- Specific roading/transportation works include:

Area	Work
<b>Village entrance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Extend Te Kauwhata Road to join Main Road, to straighten entrance to town. Consider traffic calming/slowing measures and introducing the village colours and themes through planting, easy access</li> </ul>
<b>Footpath programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide additional off-street carparks at the town entrance - shops, park</li> <li>· Current programme includes: Te Kauwhata Road/Scott Road/Mahi Road Footpaths: Amo Street to Rata Street, Rata Street to Rimu Street, Rimu Street to Roto Street</li> <li>· Extend current footpath programme to include proportional share of additional annual funds</li> </ul>
<b>Kerbing and channelling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Establish a programme that will see all village streets (and entrances to village) with kerbing and channelling within five years. Current programme includes: Amo Street; Eccles Avenue; Roto Street/Waerenga Road; Waerenga Road to Rimu Street; Mahi Road</li> </ul>
<b>Travers Road/Wayside Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Upgrade/widen Travers Road to accommodate expected residential development</li> <li>· Signage to direct traffic along Wayside/Te Kauwhata Roads toward village centre</li> </ul>

**Wastewater system**

- Investigate more sustainable sewerage/wastewater disposal options for the area
- Investigate feasibility of Rangiriri connecting to Te Kauwhata's wastewater system

**Public toilets**

- Upgrade/tidy-up public toilets

**Heavy traffic**

- Investigate a village bypass for heavy trucks/unwanted traffic

**Expressway developments**

- Ensure that adequate signage is in place for scenic routes and for north-bound and south-bound travellers for the Rangiriri - Te Kauwhata loop
- Lobby central government to ensure that the interchanges serving villages of Te Kauwhata and Rangiriri are beneficial to those villages
- Work with emergency services to plan for easy access

**Waerenga Road/Roto Street**

- Embankment/retaining wall needed
- Waerenga Road to be widened to assist traffic turning into Roto Street

**Reserves**

- Pre-plan infrastructure services/set aside reserves in areas likely to be subdivided, for example, Travers Road, Wayside Road and Te Kauwhata Road

**Parking**

- Land adjacent to St John Ambulance site to be formed as a car park for emergency services
- Formation of car park on Waerenga Road/Rimu Street to assist the Te Kauwhata Fitness Centre development
- Investigate car/bus parking requirements at the College

**Rangiriri Bridge**

- Undertake feasibility study to increase bridge to two lanes

**Village furniture**

- Cleaning/maintenance of the village street furniture



# The natural environment

Let's make the most of what Te Kauwhata has to offer - clean, green and what a view! Poised for future growth, this location offers a great place to live, work and visit - so let's protect it for future generations.

## Projects

- Protect, restore and beautify Lake Waikare and its surrounds, associated waterways and wetlands, specifically:
  - improve access to the lake and picnic spots
  - fence off the ponds
  - fence the metal road
  - replant around the lake
  - develop a walkway around the lake
  - build two or three jetties for fishing, kayaking, yachting access
  - work with Environment Waikato to improve the quality of the water in the lake
- Consider more roadside planting in line with the agreed theme, provided that visibility for traffic/road users is not compromised
- Continue the embankment planting along Te Kauwhata Road using an agreed range of plants - ice plants, natives - enlisting the support of schools, service clubs and sports groups
- Provide access to the Whangamarino Wetlands via a boardwalk
- Link with established conservation areas/walking tracks
- Establish an annual 'best garden' competition
- Form and signpost the scenic lookout on Waerenga Road (past Argonaut Stud)
- Tidy-up and discourage illegal rubbish dumping, particularly at Te Ohaaki Road and Churchill East Road
- Promote waste minimisation programmes
- Encourage a tidy-up of shops, businesses and vacant land in the village



## Local History and Culture

The Te Kauwhata area has carried on a proud history of horticulture and viticulture, and, in previous times, a substantial leather tanning industry. The village services a large rural area with a variety of traditional and emerging agricultural and farming activities.

Close neighbour Rangiriri, south of Te Kauwhata, is the site of a fierce battle between the colonial forces and local Maori in the early 1860s.

The significance of the Waikato River, in terms of the local economy and culture, is to be recognised and the quality of the associated waterways and wetlands is to be safeguarded for future generations.

### Projects

- Identify local historical sites, work with interested parties, and prepare a programme for preservation
- Prepare history/information boards at key public sites - parks, scenic spots
- Publicise local tours and farm stay opportunities
- Accommodate (under cover) collections of farm and other machinery scattered around the area to preserve them and present them to the public
- Encourage local businesses to research and display historical information and photographs to build up a picture of the area - with a focus on previous industry/activity and link in with the heritage trails if appropriate
- Promote the museum of local history and culture, as part of the village theme

# Events Promotion

Te Kauwhata is already well-known for its wineries, growing café culture and arts and crafts. How do we co-ordinate its image and present it to the rest of the country?

In addition to the local scenic spots and attractions, Te Kauwhata hosts a range of events noted on national and international calendars... the Rally of New Zealand, international equestrian events... just to name a few.

Promotion and marketing of the area will benefit the economy and bring desired growth to the area in terms of residential development and tourists.

## Projects

- Agree on a common theme or set of design guidelines for shops and businesses within the village. For example:
  - an approved colour palette
  - a consistent design element or elements, such as the grape and leaf currently used on street furniture
  - subsidised signage for retailers
- Investigate complimentary events. For example:
  - hosting vintage car or motorcycle rallies
  - a triathlon at Lake Waikare
  - river promotions
  - equestrian events and horse trials
  - motorhome shows and touring routes
- Signage projects include:
  - change references from 'town' to 'village'
  - increase the number of signs around the district directing travellers to Te Kauwhata
  - design and install an information sign (which is consistent with the agreed village theme) at the entrance to the village - suggested location is Te Kauwhata Road, and a 'places of interest' sign at the Main Street park
- establish Te Kauwhata/Rangiriri as a great choice for conferences
- link Te Kauwhata with other local attractions through promotion and signage - Rangiriri, Whangamarino Wetlands, Miranda, publish themed driving routes, wine trails
- link in with heritage trails for signage and promotion and physical works, for example, a walkway from Te Kauwhata to Rangiriri, the history of viticulture
- support and promote the use of the local website - [www.tekauwhata.co.nz](http://www.tekauwhata.co.nz)
- establish and maintain a calendar of events
  - no matter how big or small the event - arts, sports, recreation

## Community Participation

This community plan has been developed by the Te Kauwhata Community Committee to focus on the future growth and development of this area.

While some of the ideas and priorities listed in this document will take a lot longer than a few years to realise - and require more resources than are available at the moment - at least there is a plan.

The Te Kauwhata Community was encouraged to have their say, and the responses and comments that were received have been included in this plan and have helped to prioritise projects and clarify the vision for the area.

The community has shown that there is a desire to acknowledge and build upon the strong historical links with horticulture and viticulture, and to encourage business and activities that support these links.

## The Future of the Te Kauwhata Community Plan

This community plan is readily available from Council offices and the Disc centre.

All new property owners in the Te Kauwhata area will be given a copy of this plan, and it will also be provided to individuals and businesses who make enquiries at any Council office about development in the Te Kauwhata area.

Maintaining the village aspect of Te Kauwhata is a key theme that will influence the scale and style of development that residents wish to see occur, for example, attracting niche industries and retaining open spaces within the town.

Lake Waikare is a natural resource that has the potential to be a great asset and focal point of the community, which has shown support for cleaning up the lake and enhancing the facilities that are provided at present.

The potential for water-based recreational activities and walkways needs to be developed in partnership with other authorities.

A monitoring process will be undertaken in conjunction with the Community Committee to ensure that progress is made and projects are completed.

## **Te Kauwhata Community Committee**



### **Ngaruawahia District Office**

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Fax: 07 824 8091

### **Huntly Area Office**

148 Main Street  
Telephone: 07 828 7551

### **Raglan Area Office**

7 Bow Street  
Telephone: 07 825 8129

### **Hamilton Agency**

Hamilton City Council Building  
Garden Place, Hamilton

### **Waikato District Council**

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