



OUR FUTURE FEATHERSTON: 1.0

Message from Fab Feathy

The Fab Feathy Community-Led Development Project group was formed as a result of discussion at a public meeting hosted by the Featherston Community Network in October 2016.

The task that we set ourselves was to hear as many locals, from all different backgrounds and perspectives, as possible to develop a community plan; a plan that could be used as a basis for working together and seeking outside support to achieve shared community goals/visions. This is what community-led development is all about – the process of working together to create and achieve community-owned goals.

What is driving this mahi? Many communities come together in times of crisis, however, this not the case for Featherston. Featherston is great community to live in with a strong tradition of individuals and groups leading the work needed to achieve the changes they want to see in town. Fab Feathy was inspired by the prospect of what we might achieve if all this fantastic community-mindedness was brought together and focused on shared community aspirations.

This is not to say that we don't have significant challenges here. The 2013 Census revealed that we have comparatively high rates of deprivation in town, we have work to do to restore and look after our natural environment for future generations, our residents predominately need to leave town to earn a living, and there are some barriers to investment in town. Fab Feathy has not glossed over these challenges, however, we deliberately adopted a strengths-based attitude in our approach.

Overwhelmingly, throughout the process to develop this plan, Featherston people commented that our town is a great place in which to live, and on the potential Featherston has. Ultimately, what we want as a community is to fully realise the potential we can see Featherston is bursting with while retaining and enhancing what makes our town distinctive and great.

What is a community plan?

A community plan provides a framework for positive mandated action by both the people and organisations within the community. It is also a reference document for government agencies, social and community sector providers seeking to contribute to the wellbeing of residents, and potentially for people considering moving to or investing in Featherston.

This plan outlines the shared visions of the Featherston Community in 2017 and practical actions to work towards achieving those visions. The great community response to, and participation in, Fab Feathy's activities to gather input from the community, give us confidence that this plan, broadly, represents the views and has the mandate of the Featherston community.

Whose plan is it?

The 'Our Future Featherston 1.0' plan belongs to the community of Featherston; it is a 'living document' and it will continue to be adapted and refined to suit community purposes, passions, aspirations, and learnings.

Fab Feathy's role was to facilitate a process to gather input from the community, to identify shared aspirations and to synthesise the results into this community plan.

How will this plan be used?

Aside from supporting community action within Featherston, this plan is intended to be used as the basis for funding or other formal applications for external support for the Featherston Community to achieve the actions outlined here.

Who will make it happen; when will it happen?

The actions outlined in this plan will need to be purposefully initiated to avoid this plan gathering dust while sitting on a shelf. This will require many people and groups within the community working together. The pace of progress will be dictated by the resources we have within the community and by the level and intensity of support/funding we gain from stakeholders and other external parties.

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The plan on a page – where to next?

In 2017 the Fab Feathy Community-Led Development Project asked the Featherston community, why do you choose to live here, what do you love about Featherston and what do you want for future Featherston? Fab Feathy were blown away by the fantastic community response and support for going after community-owned goals in Featherston.

People overwhelmingly commented that Featherston is: a great place in which to live; has a great community filled with many diverse, interesting, talented, caring and community-minded people; and is bursting with potential.

Out of the community response Fab Feathy developed an interim vision statement, and identified five shared community aspirations based on fifteen themes that come through in the community response.

OUR COMMUNITY VISION				
As a community, we want to fully realise the potential we can see Featherston is bursting with <i>while</i> retaining and enhancing what makes our town and community distinctive and great.				
OUR COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS				
'Community' is nurtured in Featherston, we have fun together, we are connected, resilient and self-sustaining	Featherston is a destination town known for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its artisans • Being a vibrant hub of creativity, • Being connected to beautiful natural surroundings 	Featherston values and takes care to conserve, protect, restore and revitalise our natural environment	Featherston has the infrastructure needed to support creators, innovators, and businesses to invest in setting up here	Featherston has the amenities, services, and infrastructure to be a great 'liveable' town from cradle to grave

This plan outlines some next steps to set ourselves up for working together and with others to achieve the identified community aspirations.

We propose to take a **multiple actions approach** as it **creates many and varied opportunities** for people to follow their interests and contribute and means we can make progress on a number of fronts at the same time. We anticipate that this approach will **keep people engaged and involved** and enable us to continually **build momentum** as we go.

Proposed immediate next steps are for Fab Feathy to evolve into a **central coordinating group** to **facilitate communications and connections** across the community and groups undertaking specific actions; including hosting a **community meeting every three months** to discuss progress.

The plan is for **action groups** to form around **specific projects or focus areas**. Actions groups, with the support of the central coordinating group, will coordinate effort, resources, and people towards achieving the specific project (and dissolve when the "action" is completed).

Actions are already underway to lay the foundation for working together towards our aspirations.

Community members are working on **two tools - stakeholder mapping and a "skills and interests" register** - to support the planning and accessing community-based resources on specific projects.

Fab Feathy is working to bring-in resources by **submitting a request to partner with the Department of Internal Affairs in its Community-Led Development Programme**. The community has identified that having a **paid resource to coordinate** and have an overview of the plan **is critical to keeping community engagement and momentum**. A key task for the coordinating group will be to find funding for such a resource.

The next step for the **wider community** is to **decide which specific "actions"** they want to be involved with; decisions to be facilitated through the planned three-monthly community meetings.

Snapshot of Featherston

Featherston is one of three small towns in South Wairarapa, located 64 km from Wellington, 13 km from Greytown and 17 km from Martinborough. It had a population of 2253 at the time of the last census in 2013.

Nestled beneath the bush-clad Rimutaka range, this picturesque village is known as the gateway to the Wairarapa, being the first town encountered by people entering the province from the south. It served the farming community in its early days and was the site of New Zealand's largest military camp during the two world wars. It is now attractive to young families, commuters and retirees, with affordable housing, a railway station in the middle of town with just an hour's travel to Wellington, a strong sense of community, and an abundance of sporting and recreational opportunities.

Featherston is well served by a range of amenities, including a supermarket, a dairy, specialty shops, cafes and eateries, a weekly produce market, a library, three primary schools, churches, health and welfare facilities and a pharmacy, a fire brigade, a community centre, a service station, a sports stadium and grounds, parks, a miniature railway, and swimming baths.

With several second hand bookshops, Featherston hosted New Zealand's first annual Booktown festival in 2015. It is joining more than 20 other Booktowns around the world, developed in villages of historic interest or scenic beauty since 1961.

Featherston is also a hub for cyclists wanting to ride the nearby Rimutaka cycle trail, and people keen to explore Wairarapa Moana, the spectacular coastlines of Cape Palliser and the Rimutaka and Aorangi forest Parks. There's a visitor centre, and tourist accommodation ranging from hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts, to camping areas.

The town's military and rail histories are celebrated with two museums and a grand assortment of restored historic homes. The centrepiece of community activity today is the recently restored Anzac Hall, built in 1916 by the local settlers as a club for the soldiers based at the military camp – "to save them from the 'pitfalls' of the towns and cities". Part of the former camp is now a Garden of Remembrance, for the 48 Japanese Second World War prisoners and one guard killed there in an incident in 1943.

Challenges faced by the Featherston today include limited employment opportunities and activities for young people; the disconnection between the township and the nearby Wairarapa Moana, which is needing restoration after decades of degradation; the delay in getting ultrafast broadband which will inhibit business investment and innovation, and the disrepair of some buildings in the main street. With more people commuting to work in Wellington from the Wairarapa, there's also a need to improve train services to avoid overcrowding and delays.

On a positive note, there is considerable talent and entrepreneurial drive within the community, and a willingness to work together to overcome these challenges. This is evidenced by a rapid growth in



confidence in Featherston, with many new businesses establishing in the township, the range of activities and events hosted by community groups, and the growing appeal of Featherston to young families and retirees. Efforts are underway to improve the health of Wairarapa Moana by the managing iwi authorities, landowners and volunteers.

Harnessing this community energy to its full capacity, with support from local and central government, investors and funding providers, will strengthen Featherston's position as one of the most liveable small towns in New Zealand, and a drawcard for local and international visitors alike.

By the numbers, some official stats for Featherston from the 2013 Census

On census day 2013:

- The **median age** of people living in Featherston was 43.4 years with 18.3 per cent aged 65 years and over, and 18.8 per cent aged under 15 years.
- The most common **ethnicity** of people usually residing in Featherston was European 88 per cent (compared to 74 per cent nationally); followed by Māori at 18.4 per cent (compared to 14.9 per cent across New Zealand). Note that the Census allows individuals to identify with multiple ethnicity groups.
- One-**family households** made up 60.4 per cent of all households in Featherston with an average size of 2.2 people.
 - Couples with children accounted for 32.9 per cent of all families
 - 45.9 per cent were couples without children
 - 20.8 per cent were one parent with children families.
- On census day, 68.7 per cent of households in Featherston **owned their home** (compared to 64.8 per cent nationally).
- A **formal qualification** was held by 70.3 per cent of Featherston people aged 15 years or over, with 14.5 per cent holding a bachelor's degree or higher as their highest qualification.
- **Unemployment** was at 10.5 per cent (compared to 7.1 per cent nationally)
- The most common **occupational group** in Featherston was 'professionals'.
- The **median income** was \$23,900. There were 44 per cent earning \$20,000 or less annually and 21.0 per cent earning more than \$50,000.
- Most people **travelled to work** in a car, truck or van (56.3 per cent) followed by train (19.1 per cent) and driving a company car, truck or van (10.2 per cent).
- There were 140 **business locations** in Featherston and 520 paid employees.
- On census day 62.5 per cent of homes in Featherston had **access to the internet** (compared to 72.8 per cent nationally).
- Featherston had the highest **Social Deprivation Index** score (1060) in the South Wairarapa, the score was higher than the national mean score and Featherston sat in the ninth decile for the country (meaning social deprivation is high relative to other communities across New Zealand).

Section one: how this plan was developed



Getting started

The Our Future Featherston 1.0 Community Plan, is the synthesis of the feedback gathered, by the Fab Feathy Community-Led Development Project Group, from the Featherston community between November 2016 and May 2017.

Where did Fab Feathy come from?

The Featherston Community Network (a local network of community and social sector representatives that meets regularly) heard about a new approach by the Department of Internal Affairs to support selected communities across New Zealand to achieve shared community aspirations.

At the September 2016 Featherston Community Network meeting, members were excited to learn that communities like Featherston could apply to be selected for up to five years of intensive support to achieve community-led development initiatives. The Network resolved to host a public meeting to test the waters about setting up project group in Featherston in order to make an application.



A public meeting, hosted by the Network and publicised by word of mouth, was held a couple of weeks later in October 2016. Around 25 Featherston community members attended the meeting, at which the Fab Feathy Community-Led Project Group was formed. Members are all locals who love Featherston and are all involved in community-focused activities in some capacity.

Meanwhile, Hapaitia (a Wairarapa-wide cross-sector group with a community-led resilience focus) had secured 'Working Together More' funding from the Ministry of Social Development to engage Inspiring Communities (a community-led development consultancy) to facilitate community conversations about setting up a community hub in Featherston.

On hearing of the Fab Feathy project, Hapaitia decided to transfer to it the Inspiring Communities support.

Fab Feathy has led and facilitated all the engagement with the Featherston community to develop this community plan, with support and mentoring from Megan Courtney, consultant with Inspiring Communities.

The work of Fab Feathy has been voluntary - aside from a small contract for the equivalent of two-and-a-half (i.e. 100 hours) full-time weeks work to analyse and synthesise the material gathered from the community.

Fab Feathy had its first meeting at the end of October 2016. While members were bursting with their own ideas for future Featherston, the first point of business was to hear from as many local people, from a diverse range of circumstances, as possible.

It was decided that activities to gather feedback from the community should be promoted as widely as possible. This included via the Featherston Phoenix (a free monthly community newsletter delivered to residents' letterboxes) and a project page on the Featherston Community Centre website.

Posters advertising community engagement activities were put up around town in high traffic areas; Facebook posts and event invites were placed on key Featherston community pages; events flyers were distributed to every letterbox in town; and flyers promoting the surveys were handed out to our commuters at the train station.

An overview of the activities undertaken by Fab Feathy to hear from the Featherston Community follows. A timeline showing the month by month progress of the process is provided in the appendices.

Activities undertaken to gather community input

Three main methods to gather feedback were: noticeboards and suggestions boxes; a survey; and two community 'get-togethers'.

Noticeboards and suggestion boxes

Noticeboards and suggestion boxes were set up in various locations

between November 2016 and February 2017.

Community members were encouraged to suggest what they wanted for future

Featherston on a piece of paper and post them on either a noticeboard or in a suggestion box.



Locations were chosen for:

- high traffic – supermarket, library, train station, community centre, and
- where people typically waited – medical centre, cafes and takeaways.

A stall at the supermarket was also set up during a weekend in December.

At the community pot-luck dinner a selection of the suggestions gathered to date were displayed and people were encouraged to add more. 450 ideas were collected in total.



Our Future Featherston Survey

An 'Our Future Featherston Survey' was conducted over March and April 2017. Community members completed the survey online (via survey monkey) or in paper form published in the Featherston Phoenix (delivered to every letterbox in town) and available at the Featherston Library and the community centre. Drop-boxes for completed surveys were located at the library and community centre.

The survey sought responses to eight questions, using a combination of selected preferred answers and written responses:

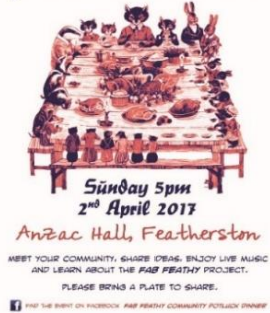
- **Why do you choose to live in Featherston?** (select preferred options & option to write response)
- **How proud are you to live in Featherston?** (select preferred option)
- **What are the top three things you like the most about Featherston?** (select preferred options & option to write response)
- **What are your hopes or aspirations for Featherston? What is your vision for our town?** (written response)
- **What are the top five things you would most like to see developed in Featherston?** (select preferred options & option to write response)
- **What is the one thing that you would want in Featherston that doesn't exist at the moment?** (written response)
- **What groups, projects or initiatives are you involved with that might link to the Fab Feathy project?** (written response)
- **Would you like to be kept up-to-date with the Fab Feathy project? If yes, please provide contact details and we will add you to our database.** (written response)

A total of 205 surveys were completed – this represents 11.2 per cent of our adult population (aged over 15 years). We now have 158 people on the Fab Feathy database list.

Community pot-luck dinner & ideas gathering session

Fab Feathy hosted a community pot-luck dinner on Sunday 2 April 2017. Community members were invited along to hear more about the Fab Feathy

Community Potluck Dinner



Project, to share their thoughts, and connect with other community members.

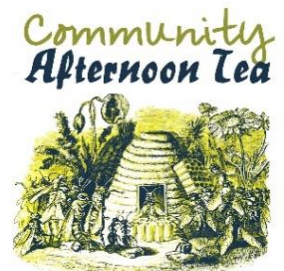
200 adults and 50 children attended. There was an opportunity to read the suggestions already gathered by Fab Feathy and add their own. Tables were set up with white paper

table cloths and pens. People were encouraged to talk to others at their table about their aspirations for future Featherston and to record these conversations on the table cloths.

Fab Feathy members gave an overview of the project and answered questions. The night was a huge success with people still talking about it weeks later. Many came forward on the night to offer their talent or time to community-led development in Featherston.

Community Afternoon tea & workshop

Fab Feathy hosted, and Megan from Inspiring Communities facilitated, a community afternoon tea and workshop discussion on 28 May 2017.



A thematic summary of the 450 ideas and the 205 completed surveys was presented to the 50 people who braved particularly horrible weather to attend. Good on them for coming out on such a bad day!

The participants workshopped questions about priorities, and how to organise ourselves and our resources to achieve the identified community aspirations. The group discussed potential next steps to feed into the development of the community plan.



Section two: community vision and aspirations



Themes from community feedback

All the community feedback gathered was sorted into the 15 theme areas listed on the following pages. A more detailed summary of many of the ideas and suggestions from the surveys and suggestion boxes is recorded in the appendices, for future inspiration and reference.

Main street	<p>We want the public face of town to be tidied up to better reflect the vibrancy of our town. We want a 'public face' we can be proud of.</p> <p>We want unique artisanal businesses and a range of affordable shops.</p> <p>We want a more unified main street from one end to the other. We want it to be safe for pedestrians. We want people to want to stop and spend money in town.</p> <p>We want the squircle to be bustling with people and activities (markets, performance)</p>
Young People	<p>We want to make sure that our young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are proud to come from Featherston• have opportunities in town to discover, develop, and use/share their skills and talents• have options for 'things to do' for fun, recreation, hobbies, and interests• can earn their first income and gain work experience in town• have opportunities to hang out with/interact with other generations in town• understand the contribution they can make to our community and have their contributions recognised when they make them• know that we value and support them and we have their backs• are confident and resilient and know where to get help if they need it
Employment, income and business development	<p>We want the infrastructure needed to attract and support creators, innovators and businesses to invest in setting up here.</p>
Cycle and walking trails	<p>We want to revitalise/improve what we have now and develop new safe and accessible walking and cycle trails for locals and for visitors to use, catering for a wide range of abilities.</p> <p>The potential to develop tourism and improving connections between the town and nearby environmental assets were key threads in this theme.</p>
Swimming pool complex improvements	<p>We want to make better use of what we already have – and we have some "think big" ideas for developing an all year round facility.</p>
Liveable amenities, services and infrastructure	<p>We want Council to engage better with the community.</p> <p>We want the amenities, services and infrastructure that ensure a great standard of living right across our diverse community.</p>
Natural surroundings, including Wairapa Moana	<p>We want to protect, restore, and enhance our surrounding outstanding natural environment.</p>

More public art

We want more public art projects. Public art makes for an interesting environment for locals and may bring more visitors to town. It is perhaps a means of revitalising the public facing parts of town that are in need of a spruce up.

We also want to support and encourage our local artists and attract more artists to live here.

Destination Featherston

We want people to stop and enjoy their stay.

We want to be the destination not just the gateway. We want to develop the potential we can see in town and make the most of our unique character, attributes and surroundings.

We want to both complement and distinguish our town from what is on offer in the rest of the region.

Better housing and healthcare for elderly

We want appropriate housing, facilities and services to allow our elderly people to stay in town; to avoid the stress, upset and upheaval of having to leave town if residential care is necessary.

Community

We want to get together to have fun and enjoy each other's company. We want a programme of free events/activities for locals aimed at building & celebrating community (not tourism focused).

We want our community to be connected and cohesive, we want collaboration and sharing. We want to celebrate and utilise the talents and skills we have in town.

History and heritage

We want to see our heritage buildings revitalised, used, and preserved. We see potential for tourism based around our unique heritage.

Waste not want not

We want to reduce waste and our impact on the environment by sharing and exchanging, recycling, repurposing, reusing, upcycling materials and resources. "Think big" aspiration to be the Upcycling/Recycling/Recovery Centre of the Wairarapa.

Food and gardening

We want to grow, exchange, share food locally. We don't want our abundant produce to go to waste when someone else in town could use it.

We want to attract initiatives that will provide locals with affordable fruit and veges.

We want to stay in town to eat out.

Children and childcare

We want our children to be safe and to have access to good quality affordable age appropriate child care, operating in hours that suit working/studying parents/caregivers.

We want a range of kid-friendly activities for fun, sport, art, culture and recreation.

We want our kids to have world-class education that supports them to build confidence and resilience.

One vision, five community aspirations

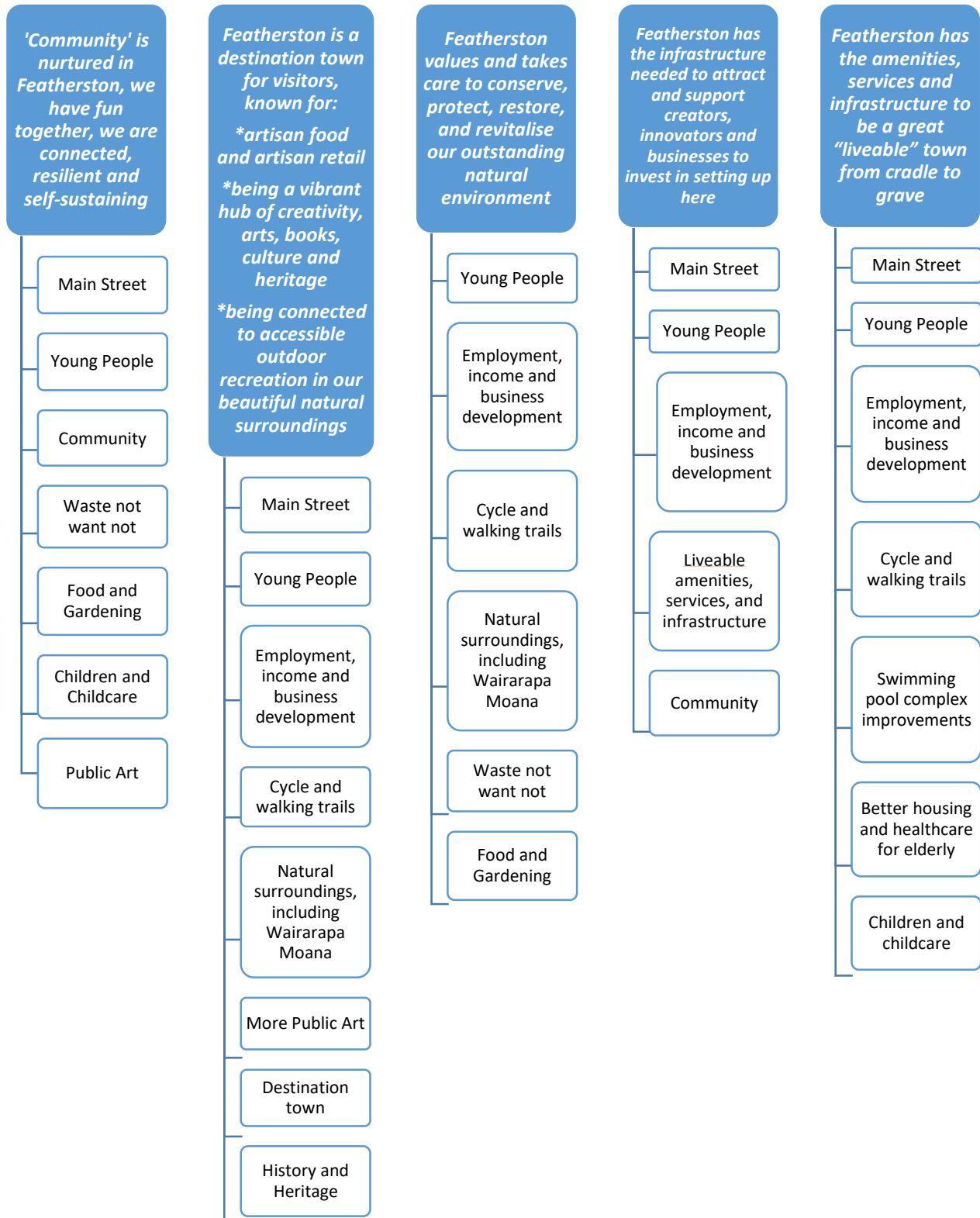
People overwhelmingly commented that Featherston is: a great place in which to live; has a great community filled with many diverse, interesting, talented, caring and community-minded people; and is bursting with potential.

Our Vision

As a community, we want to fully realise the potential we can see Featherston is bursting with *while* retaining and enhancing what makes our town and community distinctive and great.

Our aspirations

Five community aspirations were developed from the 15 theme areas. The following demonstrates which theme area links with each aspiration.



Section three: proposed actions



Where to from here?

The Featherston Community has some ambitious goals. We recognise that to fully achieve our vision and aspirations, it will take many community members and groups working together with external stakeholders, partners and experts over the long term.

Featherston has a tradition of community members coming together and taking action to achieve the change they want in town. The process to develop this plan has confirmed that there is support within the Featherston community to continue this tradition through using a community-led development approach to make the change we want to happen.

When asked what was exciting about a community-led development approach common responses from community members were:

- There is so much people talent in Featherston and so much willingness to give.
- We can draw on our strengths from within.
- Coming from Featherston for Featherston.
- Make it work for ourselves rather than getting Council/others to do it.
- Ownership.
- More likely to get something that the Community wants and needs.
- Capitalise on the potential the community can see here.

We acknowledge that some of the ideas and aspirations identified in the community engagement process to develop this plan are happening, or will happen without the impetus of a community-led development process.

Taking a community-led development approach, however, is about the community driving, shaping and making change for ourselves; it is about being in the driver's seat rather than having things done to us or for us.

Community conversations about the next steps actions tended towards setting ourselves up to support multiple actions being progressed at once, as opposed to tackling one project at a time.

This multiple actions approach creates many and varied opportunities for people to follow their interests and make a contribution and means we can make progress on a number of fronts at the same time. We anticipate that this approach will keep people engaged and involved and enable us to continually build momentum as we go.



Working together

The proposed framework for working together to take action, involves establishing new processes to enable us to stay connected, coordinated, collaborative, resourced, and focused while working towards achieving the vision and aspirations outlined in this plan.

Connected

We recognise the importance of staying connected to encourage and support a range of actions under the aegis of the community-led development approach.

We want to come together regularly to check-in with each other; to build trust and working relationships with each other; to hear about progress on actions; to celebrate successes; to problem solve together; to workshop next steps.

Quarterly (i.e. once every three months) community meetings will be established; facilitated by the central coordinating group at parent/commuter/worker friendly times. The meetings, open to anyone, will be informal and inclusive. Meetings will be promoted via email to the database, posters, through articles in the Phoenix, Facebook events and word of mouth.

Coordinated

We recognise the importance of central coordination where we plan to undertake multiple actions involving multiple community members/others. Central coordination minimises the risk of duplication and provides oversight of the “whole”, allowing action groups to focus on coordinating projects.

We propose to organise ourselves to achieve our aspirations by having one central coordinating group overseeing all the combined efforts and facilitating communications and connections within the community on actions. Action groups will form around specific projects or focus areas and will coordinate effort, resources, people towards achieving the specific project (and then dissolve when the “action” is completed).

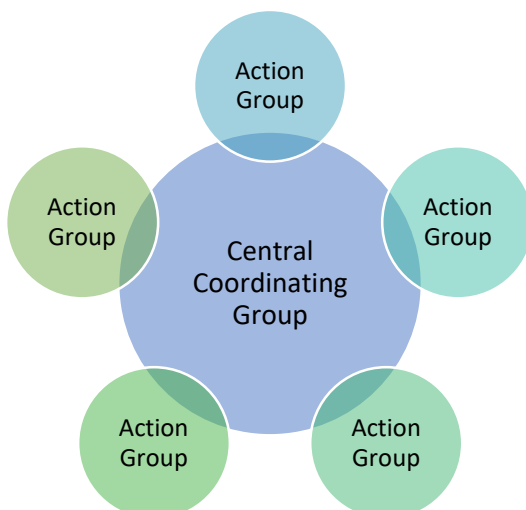
The community has suggested that the Fab Feathy Community-Led Project Group evolve to become the central coordinating group in implementing this community plan. The central coordinating group will be a single point to collate and communicate information about the community-led development activities in Featherston.

Collaborative

We recognise the importance of working collaboratively; drawing on the range of people, assets and resources we have in town and building relationships with those with the resources or influence to support us to achieve our aspirations.

The community proposes a “working-bee” model where each Action Group invites the community and appropriate others to get involved in activities towards achieving projects. Action groups will identify, recruit and coordinate community members/volunteers and stakeholders relevant to their project.

The central coordinating group will support collaboration by working with action groups to socialise this plan and individual Action Group objectives with the many groups, organisations, institutions and activities already focused on development in Featherston.



Resourced

We recognise the importance of getting things done to build momentum and support from within and from outside of the community. Getting things done means maximising available resources.

We will develop a 'skills and interests' community-asset register to record what skills, time, resources community members/groups might be willing to contribute to community-led development activities in Featherston.

The central coordinating group will make funding applications for some paid coordination time. We know from the experience of other communities that having a paid dedicated resource to support the central coordinating group to facilitate connections and communications, and to broker, develop and maintain key relationships can accelerate progress and provide the level of consistency critical to maintaining community engagement and effort over the long term.

Action groups, supported by the central coordinating group, will apply for project costs that cannot be resourced from within the community.

Focused

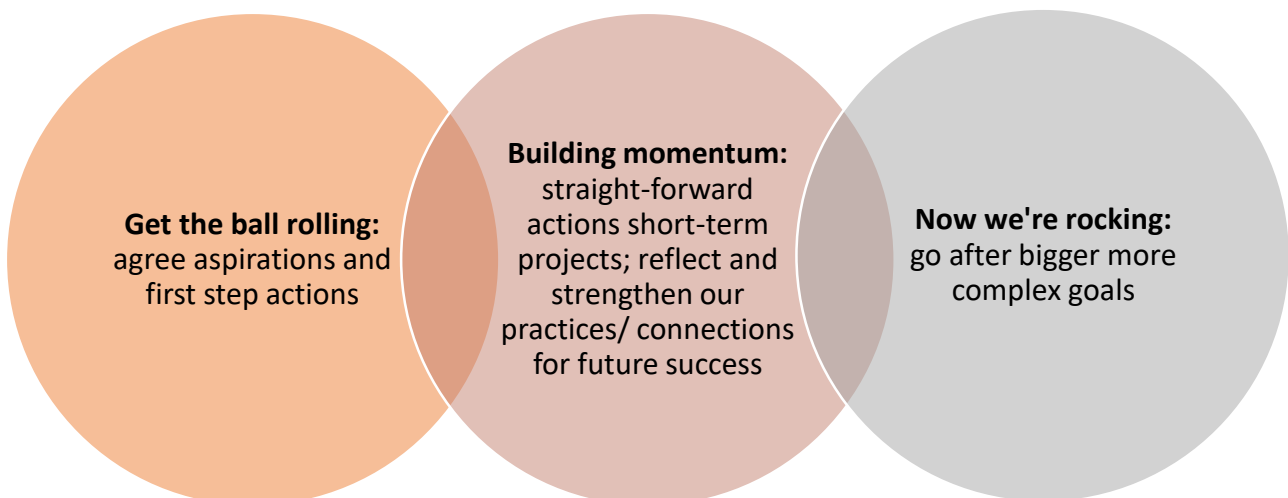
We recognise the importance of remaining focused on our bigger picture to ensure we are putting our efforts into processes and activities that take us closer to achieving our aspirations. We will ensure that we can connect and describe how the actions we propose to take will move us towards our community aspirations.

We will review progress at each quarterly meeting. We will discuss and record what was successful and what didn't go to plan and the reasons why at each quarterly meeting. We will adapt and refine our processes and the community plan as we learn what works to get things done in Featherston.

We intend to learn how to work together best by getting on with straight-forward short-term projects, reviewing how these go, incorporating that learning into our next projects, and building towards going after bigger more complex projects.

What actions?

The specific actions that we make a start on will depend initially on the interests and passions of the people who come to the initial meetings and form action groups. We have collected plenty of great ideas for specific actions. It will be up to the people at the initial community meetings to discuss and decide which ones to pursue first.



Working with others

Who are the people, groups, organisations, funders, NGOs, local and central government agencies etc. that might have a stake in working together with the community towards a specific action or community-owned goal? How do we work with them?

We will need to work with “stakeholders” to achieve our goals. Stakeholders may be people or groups within the community or those outside of the community. They are people who have an interest in action the community decides to tackle; such as those currently working in areas that relating to the identified community aspirations.

Stakeholders will have differing levels of influence or potential contributions to make to each project or action the community decides to tackle. Each will fall somewhere on a spectrum; from being absolutely core to the project being successful, to those needing to be kept in the loop but not directly involved.

Mapping who is doing what in Featherston

A Featherston community member is mapping who is doing what in Featherston. We also collected a wealth of information via the Survey, about what groups, projects, initiatives Featherston people are involved with.

Combined, these two resources will assist the central coordinating group and action groups to identify potential stakeholders when planning projects or actions.



When considering actions, we will need to look at how we can connect with the work already being done in Featherston and identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

The second step is to talk to stakeholders...

Once stakeholders have been identified the next step would be to make contact and start talking about what we want to achieve, and the possibilities for working together.

While harnessing the wider community’s enthusiasm to achieve its community-owned goals, we do need to be mindful of initiatives and work already underway.

We don’t want to reinvent the wheel, or duplicate the work being done by others, but rather support, complement and/or build on these efforts.

... and the third step is to identify ways to work together

How could this work in practice?

Some of the actions suggested through the community engagement were focused on doing more of what is already happening.

For example, we received many comments about wanting to keep Featherston First Friday’s going over Summer. First Friday’s are well organised fun and free events that bring the community together one evening each month in Summer.

The idea would be to approach the organisers and ask how this process/the wider community might support these events to continue, **with no expectation or demand of more involvement than is wanted by the current organisers:**

- it may be that the organisers could do with some help to put up posters around town; or
- they might want help with finding funding; or
- they might want more people on the First Friday organising group;
- it might be that they don’t have anything specific that they want help with.

The “skills and interests” register will be a useful tool to assist action groups and coordinating group to describe the ways in which community members could support work already underway when talking to stakeholders.

Getting new things going

Even where an action group seeks to start something new it is still important to identify the connections the project has with other things happening around town.

Some potential actions under each aspiration

As a starter, to support further community conversations about specific actions to make a start on, we have taken a few of the great ideas the community provided and plotted them in immediate, short, medium and long term timeframes for each aspiration. The specific actions that are eventually undertaken will depend on the passions, interest, and resourcing within our community.

Community is nurtured in Featherston, we have fun together, we are connected, resilient and self-sustaining

Keep doing

Support the organisers of **First Fridays** to continue organising fabulous free events in Summer

Submit a request for **partnership** with the Department of Internal Affairs Community-Led Development Programme

Develop a **community skills and interests register**

Continue participation and involvement in **implementing this plan**

Do soon

One or two **community pot-luck dinners** over autumn/winter/spring when First Fridays are not running – with a focus on bringing generations together and bringing new residents and long-time residents together

Establish **community awards** to celebrate our local heroes and achievements (ensuring we celebrate our children and young person's contributions)

Community project to create **themed family friendly town walks**; with book, history/heritage, stories/traditions of tangata whenua themes

Work towards

Develop efficient **one-stop community information sharing/exchange** mechanism

Collective established to coordinate **surplus food swap, community growing** of produce for food bank/sharing

Annual community events on **Neighbours' Day**

Think Big

Self-sustaining social enterprise that **provides our young people with their first job and work experience** in partnership with the Wairarapa Whanau Trust youth activities based at Boundary Road

Potential actions cont.

Featherston is a destination town for visitors, known for:

- * artisan food and artisan retail
- * being a vibrant hub of creativiity, arts, books, culture and heritage
- * being connected to accessible outdoor recreation in our beautiful natural surroundings

Keep doing	Support Booktown, Christmas Market, Fell Engine & Heritage Complex, Mini-Fell Festival Buy local to sustain local artisans and businesses
Do soon	Support local artists to apply for Creative Arts funding to undertake public art projects in town Advocate for more public transport on weekends Establish an artisan festival – perhaps to coincide with Booktown
Work towards	Better connecting cycle and pathways between town with natural surroundings , cycle trail Upgrade public amenities for visitors , in particular with cyclists and walkers in mind (toilets, showers, secure cycle storage) for visitors Website to promote tourism in Featherston Featherston information centre becoming an iSite Digital recording of our oral, photographic and written history
Think Big	Public Art programme which seeks to link one end of the main street with the other end , address issues with unoccupied buildings, and take advantage of our abundant natural resource – the wind

Potential actions cont.

Featherston values and takes care to conserve, protect, restore and revitalise our natural environment

Keep doing	Support the Wairarapa Moana – Community Restoration/Featherston Youth Programme’s collaboration with the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project on the youth conservation programme, planting and restoring wetlands to continue Support the work of groups like Boomerang Bags to reduce plastic bag use in town
Do soon	Build-a-bicycle and bicycle repair and maintenance workshops Establish a swap-a-market – swap-a-crop, exchange food, wood, compost, furniture Set up a library of things – tools etc
Work towards	Implement the concepts developed by the Vic Uni landscape architect students Plant natives along open storm water streams and plant rain gardens
Think Big	Restore Wairarapa Moana Predator free reserve on “One Tree Hill” Solar/Wind powered town Become the recycling/upcycling centre for Wairarapa; a community enterprise that provides jobs for local people

Potential actions cont.

Featherston has the infrastructure needed to support creators, innovators, and businesses to invest in setting up here

Keep doing

Buy local to sustain local businesses

Do soon

Get **good news stories** out about locals being successful creators, innovators, business owners in town – this will promote Featherston and also inspire our young people to see what they can achieve in town

Establish **regular networking events** for local businesses to make useful connections and discuss local issues

Investigate what support for regional economic development exists through local and central government, such as the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Work towards

Establish **subsidies for businesses start-ups** in town – advocate for this through local government planning processes

Establish a **local economic development network** to plan and drive economic development in town

Establish a shared **co-working space** (hot desks) as an option for commuters to work locally a few days a week

Think Big

Position town as **incubator** for emerging creative, innovative and high tech businesses

Advocate for any new building to locate Council offices to be built in Featherston

Potential actions cont.

Featherston has the amenities, services and infrastructure to be a great 'liveable' town from cradle to grave

'Liveable' is a living conditions / quality of life concept where a range of factors are taken into consideration to rate the 'liveability'. Factors like: cost of living; health care; quality of education; safety/crime; arts, culture, recreation, entertainment options; public transport; access to goods and services; equitable mobility; environment; town design and infrastructure; social inclusion; connectivity; commerce.

Keep doing

Support **Meals on Wheels** to continue
Library and AOG **School Holiday Programmes**
Support the **Featherston Community Centre** to thrive and continue to provide a community-owned facility for community-focused activities

Do soon

Improve the **fencing** around the **playground**
Work to **slow traffic** through town, around schools and the playground
Establish a **Fruit and Vegetable Cooperative** for supplying affordable produce such as those in the Hutt Valley and Kapiti
Work to **strengthen** the **communication** channels and positive **relationship** with the South Wairarapa **District Council** – work towards establishing a **partnership model** to achieve our community goals
Add to the **school holiday programme** activities offered through AOG and the Library

Work towards

Create a **space** to go and/or things to do with kids on a **rainy day**
Upgrade playground equipment
Expand the **Library**, more books, more activities
Upgrade outdoor pool complex; e.g. install BBQs and picnic area, shade sails over toddler's pool
Extend **One Tree Hill track** into adjacent area

Think Big

Multi-purpose indoor/outdoor recreation complex with covered, heated **pool and gym**
Appropriate housing stock to accommodate residents' needs across their lifetimes, including establishing a **rest home** in town

Dealing with bumps and roadblocks

<p>Low stakeholder engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with actions where we know stakeholders are supportive, build momentum from successes • Focus on developing strong trust working relationships on a foundation of clear, transparent communication • Ensure that actions complement and enhance, and won't duplicate or compete with, work being done by others • Communicate of purpose and benefits of actions/goals • Publically acknowledge stakeholder role and contributions and include stakeholders in celebration of successes • Good use and identification of expertise and resources to support relationship brokering and building (e.g. online resources and DIA's community advisers) • Work towards securing funding for a paid Coordinator with responsibility to support the community to broker, build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders
<p>Slow or no progress results in the community dis-engaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise regular communications promote progress and successes within the community – including articulating how the small steps lead to the bigger change wanted • Encourage and support many people to take the lead and work together on actions • Work towards securing a dedicated paid coordinator to drive momentum and progress and coordinate volunteer effort – as evidenced as being successful in other communities
<p>Funding, where needed, is not secured (or only partial funding is secured)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what can be achieved within community assets and resources, plan actions with a view to calling on existing resources first • Plans for self-sufficient, self-sustaining operations over the long-term built into project/action plans (following seed funding from grants etc.) • Be innovative and collaborative in approach to funding (e.g. think creatively about how something can be funded, not necessarily fully funded through one grant source) • Clearly communicate the community benefit in funding proposals and keep identifying, and applying to, a range of funders
<p>Not enough people involved to keep momentum on actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to join-in and work together through positive “word-of-mouth” about the volunteer experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ volunteers are well supported by well-organised action and coordinating groups ○ volunteers are acknowledged and the value of their contributions celebrated • Set up a register of volunteers to better target requests for support with available skills • Meetings and or activities are arranged, as much as is possible, for times when people can participate (e.g. parent/worker/commuter-friendly times) • Work towards securing funding for a paid Coordinator to “coordinate” and ensure quality communication with volunteers
<p>Community priorities change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This plan is a living document and the process of implementing it is designed to be flexible and able to be periodically adapted, refined, revised to suit changing circumstances
<p>This plan gathers dust on the shelf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This plan is a community resource that can be used by community members, community groups or organisations or government agencies working in Featherston, regardless of whether or not its actions are being progressed via a community-led development “project”.

Big thanks to all those that contributed...

This process has been made possible by the contributions of many people, groups, businesses and organisations – all contributions, large or small, have had an impact.

Organisations or individuals that sponsored or funded aspects of our activities

Hapaitia Wairarapa/[Working Together More Fund](#) (funding to engage mentoring and support from [Inspiring Communities](#) to establish a Community-Led Development group and facilitate community-led development conversations and the development of a draft community plan)

[Inspiring Communities](#) – Megan Courtney (donated time and resources in addition to what was funded via Hapaitia/Working Together More)

[Featherston's Own Charitable Trust](#) (donation towards costs of both community meetings)

Supervalu (donated food, vouchers and other supplies for both community meetings);

A local resident (survey costs and community meeting costs)

Wairarapa Community Networks (costs of meeting space for Fab Feathy meetings)

Gusto Café (coffee vouchers);

[Loco Coffee and Books](#) (coffee vouchers);

[Martin the Baker](#) (bread for community pot-luck)

[Colombo Vineyard](#) (wine as thank-you gift for volunteers);

Individuals who donated time, talent and/or resources or helped promote activities:

Tracey Shepherd; Chris Miller; Rebekah Mehrtens; Tiff North; Martine Bijker; Katie Beattie; Jocelyn Konig; Elsa Kelly; Amy Ross; Sue Galbraith; Ant North; Raewyn Rota; Patsy Wooles; Patrick Bleakley, Saali Marks; Denver Grenall, Lee Carter.

Members of Fab Feathy (estimated over 1,000 voluntary hours so far): Kara Pennington; Siv Fjaerestad; Sarah Taylor-Waitere; Mark Shepherd; Alan Maxwell; Phil Dittmer; Liz Mellish.

Community members who completed the 205 surveys and provided the 450 suggestions, the 250 who brought and shared food at the pot-luck dinner, the 50 people who came out on a horrible day to discuss priority theme areas, and the 160 people who have joined the database and indicated they want to participate in this journey going forward. Also, the people who helped set up and clear up ANZAC Hall before and after community meetings.

Supported activities by donating or lending resources, providing printing etc.:

*Regional Public Health Wellington, Wairarapa Office; Connecting Communities Wairarapa; Wairarapa Community Networks; Featherston Community Centre; **Persons/groups who provided PA system and projector and screen**; South Wairarapa District Council; Wairarapa REAP.*

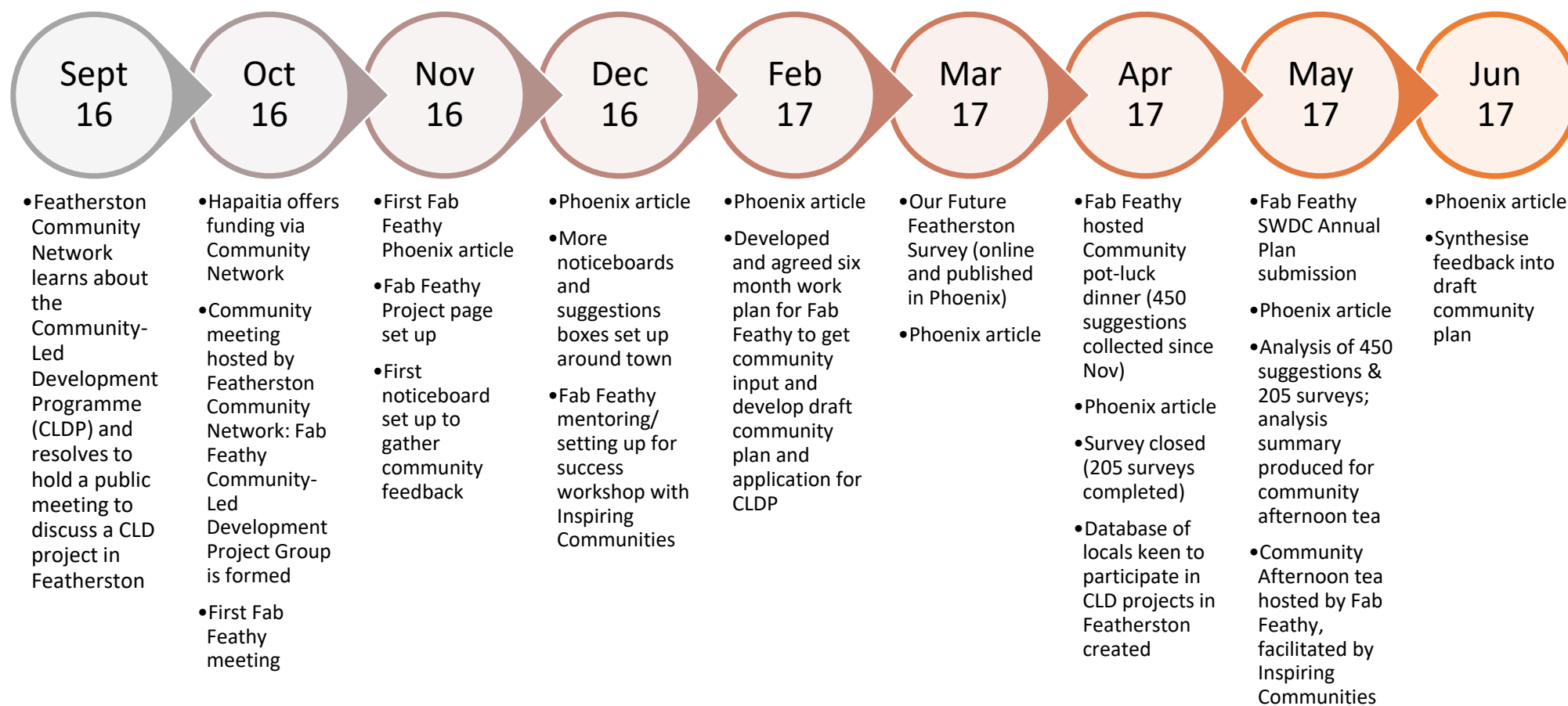
Local businesses and organisations who assisted in promoting the survey, suggestion boxes, noticeboards, and community meetings:

*Lucy Cooper – Arrow FM's [Recooper8 radio show](#); Featherston Community Centre; [Loco Coffee and Books](#); SuperValue; Featherston Medical Centre; Featherston School; Featherston Phoenix; Featherston's Own Shop; Featherston Library; **Ticket Office at the Train Station**; Town and Country Café; Pioneer Bakery; RD1; Featherston Barber; Messines Restaurant and Bar; South Wairarapa Vets; For the Love of Books; Adamson's Service Station; C'est Cheese; Kia Ora Dairy; Thirsty Bottle Store; Industrial; Quirkies Antiques; Featherston Information Centre; Langs Pharmacy; Friday Club at Assembly of God; **(Any other schools?); (any other sports clubs or muay thai etc?).***

Appendices

- I. Plan development timeline
- II. Collation of suggestions and ideas in the 15 theme areas

Plan development timeline ...



Theme one: Main street

We want the public face of town to be tidied up to better reflect the vibrancy of our town. We want a 'public face' we can be proud of.

We want unique artisanal businesses and a range of affordable shops.

We want a more unified main street from one end to the other.

We want it to be safe for pedestrians.

We want people to want to stop and spend money in town.

We want the squircle to be bustling with people and activities (markets, performance, community gatherings).

Some ideas:

- no derelict or run-down buildings on the main street – new partnerships to get things upgraded, make building owners/Council more accountable
- ideally renovate the derelict buildings (retain their character); otherwise, have a community paint bombing session to 'decorate' them OR cover the exterior with ply and then paint a mural showing what the building could/should look like
- shelter over public seats in town square/squircle; finish the seats off and planter boxes in the squircle
- slow traffic, speed camera, add traffic island and pedestrian crossings and pedestrian malls (e.g. on Fox Street by war memorial)
- better landscaping of street frontage
- upgrade/clean footpaths. Replace with brick
- more unified appearance - custom made open flags same theme and colours
- more community input and better town planning into the main street appeal and looks
- no Strip Mall – keep Featherston quirky and unique
- take away existing access to SH53 that would allow more parks near Royal and traffic to park/drive past local businesses
- more covered/sheltered areas for markets, outdoor concerts
- retail development ideas based on VUW School of Design concepts

Theme two: Young people – it takes a village

We want to make sure that our young people:

- ***are proud to come from Featherston***
- ***have opportunities in town to discover, develop, and use/share their skills and talents***
- ***have options for 'things to do' for fun, recreation, hobbies, and interests***
- ***can earn their first income and gain work experience in town***
- ***have opportunities to hang out with/interact with other generations in town***
- ***understand the contribution they can make to our community and have their contributions recognised when they make them***
- ***know that we value and support them and we have their backs***
- ***are confident and resilient and know where to get help if they need it***

Some ideas:

- Support/extend Boundary Road Youth Group (the work Alan Maxwell is leading) to: develop and be sustainable; provide a space for YP to access tools/support they need to keep up with their school work, develop skills and confidence, and plan pathways to their futures
- Support YP to identify and access part-time work. For example, afterschool activities/jobs for children to earn cash – stacking firewood, gardens, lawns, pet feeding
- Strong sports clubs to make sure YP can play for local teams
- Rainy day hang out space
- Video game arcade and/or bowling alley or equivalent space where both young and old can hang out
- Better communication about how to support and get involved in supporting YP in town
- Ask YP to get involved in local projects
- Age appropriate school holiday programmes
- Music workshop for youth and adults
- Computer coding workshop
- Adventure playground for teens and adults
- More jobs/training/work experience for young people -connecting with colleges/tertiary
- Youth friendly activities – teenagers teaching younger children to skateboard or scooter
- Basketball hoops/court
- Bigger skate park; bigger bowl at the skate park

Theme three: Employment, income & business development

Lots of ideas about how the development we want in other 'theme' areas could support job creation and generate income for locals, e.g.:

- bigger better all year round pool = potential jobs
- upcycling centre = create jobs for locals
- destination town, tourism leads to more opportunities for locals to earn income
- new purpose built building for Council and govt services – bring money from council workers into town

Business development, some ideas:

- position town as an incubator of emerging high tech start ups
- create new shared co-working space in empty buildings in the main street (including hot desks, kitchen, meeting facilities etc.) Option for commuter workers to work locally a few days a week
- community-led ultrafast broadband project – we're way down government's priority list. But what could we do if the Council, vineyards, local business, private investors, community got together to create a local plan/fibre network?
- offer fast free broadband within commercial zone
- commercial development around the station (coffee... dog day care)
- Council subsidy to get the shops up & running (start-up fund)
- encouraging/providing incentives for business/retail development
- buy local campaign
- income for locals through supporting our local artisans to set up and sustain businesses here
- opening hours that suit commuters
- speed-dating type event to better connect businesses, community groups and others in town.
- Get a regular market going (some stalls) in the new town squircle area.
- attract investment in more vineyards and vegetable fields for work
- website for Featherston
- promote promote promote Featherston ♡

Theme four: cycle and walking trails

We want to revitalise/improve what we have now and develop new safe and accessible walking and cycle trails for locals and for visitors to use, catering for a wide range of abilities.

The potential to develop tourism and improving connections between the town and nearby environmental assets were key threads in this theme.

Some ideas:

- Amenities to support cycle and outdoor recreation options for locals and visitors –
 - promote what we have
 - secure storage for cycles while riders are in town
 - 'groovy' bike racks
 - visitor showers
 - good signage from train station and to connect town with trails
 - spruced up public toilets
 - hire sport equipment
- Historic markers/sculptures/signs of Māori history in and around Featherston
- More recreational walking tracks in the Hills but close enough to town so we do not need to drive to start them
- Connect tracks and greens spaces to the info centre/squircle
- Develop town street walks: Historic Street; Public Art; based on Books or Heritage
- Walking track to Peace Garden on Messines Way – as designed by Maria Rogers
- Extend One Tree Hill track into adjacent area which is apparently DOC managed.
- Walkway/cycleway to Lake Reserve.
- Dog walking areas. Public tracks around the lake. Dog facilities on trails.
- Renovate Otairua Reserve and redevelop pathway connecting Otairua Reserve with Featherston
- Safer paths for horses down to the Lake
- Developing the proposed mountain bike trail in the Rimutaka hills from 2009/2010
- Bridge at Barr Brown Bush Reserve to have better access to reserve. Boarbush gulley access to Tararua
- More little book exchanges throughout Featherston on a trail/map to be made
- Book related and/or history related walks through Featherston. One idea is a kids walk based on the book "Olwen Twelve Pockets" by Fiona McKay (with her permission of course!) Each station could reveal the contents of a pocket and lead to the next pocket ... and end at a bookshop!

Theme five: Swimming pool complex improvements

The pool complex is a community ‘bumping space’; it is a community asset used for play, recreation, exercise.

We want to make better use of what we already have – and we have some “think big” ideas for developing an all year round facility.

Developing the pool/waterpark was a strong theme in the feedback from our kids and young people.

Ideas to make better use of or improvements to the current ‘summer season’ complex:

- Water slide at pool
- Shade sails
- Toys, play features, blow-up-activities
- BBQ/picnic area including seating – late nights, take a picnic and chill
- Late nights – take a picnic, chill
- Pool cover for toddler pool and have it filled up at least 90% the summer pool time
- Support the Swimming Club’s Community Relay event
- Extend the pool hours so more of the community can use it during the week (e.g. commuter/worker friendly hours opening until 7 p.m.)
- Dedicated lane/s to improve safety for people wanting to exercise
- Extend the ‘season’ – open sooner for longer season
- Make the main pool deeper

Some ideas & comments about developing an all year round modern facility:

- Covered, heated, bigger
- Develop an indoor/outdoor waterpark with slides
- Multi-purpose facility with a gym
- Wave-pool
- Splash pad with musical features and buttons
- Retain the charm of our current outdoor pool
- Avoid steamy, loud echoey indoor environment
- Potential to bring employment with the construction - make employing locals a condition of the construction contract - and with the ongoing operations of the new year round facility.

Theme six: 'Liveable' amenities, services, and infrastructure

We want Council to engage better with the community.

We want the amenities, services and infrastructure that ensure a great standard of living right across our diverse community.

'Liveable' is a living conditions / quality of life concept where a range of factors are taken into consideration to rate the 'liveability'. Factors like: cost of living; health care; quality of education; safety/crime; arts, culture, recreation, entertainment options; public transport; access to goods and services; equitable mobility; environment; town design and infrastructure; social inclusion; connectivity; commerce.

Some ideas:

- cinema
- new street lighting like Greytown
- accessible footpaths w/ramps for wheelchairs & guide strips for blind
- improved public transport – more trains
- make the library bigger
- more support from Council for community development
- improved working relationship with Council
- security cameras and more bike racks at the Train Station
- rain gardens to deal with storm water issues
- free Wi-Fi in main street
- more dining options e.g. wine bars, choice of restaurants other than takeaways
- live music venue; bar with live music, family friendly
- better animal control
- upgrade dog park with ramps, tunnels, jumps and shelter
- modern indoor sports and community gym complex
- linked up sports clubs
- better promotion and utilisation of existing local halls, groups and recreation facilities.
- open hours (library, swimming pool, local gyms) in evenings so commuters can access
- much more visible and responsible police presence
- safe housing for abused partner
- community housing, income-related rents
- respite care
- access to Featherston Community Centre from the Main Street.
- more social service agencies in town, using Community Centre
- Community Network meeting better promoted
- community sports/exercise events; more exercise options & classes; 24 hour gym

Theme seven: Natural surroundings, including Wairarapa Moana

We want to protect, restore, and enhance our surrounding outstanding natural environment.

Some ideas:

- great to see young people getting involved – continue/expand the community work with DOC, GW etc to run youth conservation, biodiversity training programme around Wairarapa Moana restoration
- teaching/learning of conservation and landscape development skills while restoring Wairarapa Moana
- develop career paths for people involved in wetland restoration work
- conservation focused programme around Wairarapa Moana
- campaign to stop chemicals going into the lake (ban Round Up) and the shooting of geese
- clean up the lake water
- implement concepts developed by the Vic Uni landscape architect students
- better use of the Lake. It is unique to the Wairarapa and Featherston is the nearest town. Long term major tree planting and making northern access road along lake; better clearing and replanting
- create conservation jobs – possum trapping
- develop the Wairarapa Moana Reserve
- put the Ruamahunga back in the lake
- increase connections between the town and nearby environmental assets
- upgrade sewage, love for our Wairarapa Moana
- native plants along open storm water streams
- slow down boy racers going down to the Lake
- walking, cycling, horse riding trails around the lake and connecting the lake with town
- look into solar and/or wind power generation that suits our environment

Theme eight: More public art

We want more public art projects. Public art makes for an interesting environment for locals and may bring more visitors to town. It is perhaps a means of revitalising the public facing parts of town that are in need of a spruce up.

We also want to support and encourage our local artists and attract more artists to live here.

Some ideas:

- to be the kinetic art sculpture capital of New Zealand
- to be the wind sculpture capital of New Zealand
- graffiti art murals on buildings
- be a destination on an Art Trail, perhaps starting from Featherston
- more Public Art projects: sculptures; wind sculptures; murals on buildings
- Art gallery – permanent and pop-ups in the empty shops and buildings, this would encourage local talent
- support the Wairarapa Art Sale at Featherston's Community Centre
- historic markers/sculptures/signs of Māori history in and around Featherston
- groovy bikes racks
- performance spaces
- A place where artists can live and work and don't have to be rich or famous
- new artist studios – co working space and studios in one of the old buildings in town centre. Could offer cheap rent, space to sell artists goods. Could act as a small scale art 'start-up' space

Theme nine: Destination Featherston

We want people to stop and enjoy their stay.

***We want to be the destination not just the gateway.
We want to develop the potential we can see in town
and make the most of our unique character,
attributes and surroundings.***

***We want to both complement and distinguish our
town from what is on offer in the rest of the region.***

Some ideas:

- better synergy connection with neighbouring towns; complement/distinguish from what is on offer in the rest of the region
- destination park and/or pool that brings families – have a picnic and BBQ area (coin operated or free)
- Booktown
- support the Christmas market and parade
- more restaurants
- main street development; better parking
- support the retailers, they are the public face
- embrace freedom camping and make Otairua Reserve a site for this!
- promote our artisans, more public art
- concerted campaign to upgrade the town toilets; how come Mboro & Beigetown got new toilets & we get the dunger (no pun intended!)
- Dorset Square to have toilets, showers (coin operated) for cyclists to camp
- better market with more stalls
- music festival at the race course
- steam punk festival
- increase connections between the town and nearby environmental assets
- trains to Cross Creek (Steam) or Western Lake & Café both ends/souvenir shop
- better signage from railway station to Featherston
- build tourism profile, better promotion of and positive publicity about Featherston (website)
- other activities that encourage people to stop e.g. mini golf
- better public transport – especially train services (frequency/timeliness)
- expand the visitor's information centre; longer opening hours, an I-site – we are the gateway to the Wairarapa
- strengthen Sister City relationship with Messines in Belgium; build a model village of Messines in the middle of the mini fell railway

Theme ten: Better housing and healthcare for elderly

We want appropriate housing, facilities and services to allow our elderly people to stay in town; to avoid the stress, upset and upheaval of having to leave town if residential care is necessary.

Some ideas:

- turn Fareham House into rest home
- age concern agency presence
- programmes for older adults
- clean warm affordable housing for old persons
- old folks home
- more pensioner flats
- A rest home for residents
- equitable accessible mobility town planning, footpaths etc.
- allow gold card users all day on Wairarapa public transport
- reinstate Meals on Wheels (tick, done!)

Theme eleven: 'Community' is nurtured

We want to get together to have fun and enjoy each other's company.

We want a programme of free events/activities for locals aimed at building & celebrating community (not tourism focused).

We want our community to be connected and cohesive, we want collaboration and sharing.

We want to celebrate and utilise the talents and skills we have in town.

Some ideas:

- more First Friday Parties
- community movie nights at ANZAC Hall
- more Community Potlucks
- more family based community events where we can get together to meet others and our children can interact.
- thoughtful integration of new residents with old school Feathy
- celebrate Community – community awards
- commuter-friendly community events, activities and groups
- residents' Christmas lights festival - everyone lights up their tree and looks at other houses that are decorated with lights. Light up the tree on one tree hill
- fully connected, all communication channels to cover everyone
- community survey like this one where we are invited to share our ideas/vision
- join up all the different groups that do the same thing – have one overarching committee so that all the groups are pulling in same the direction
- joint funding applications
- create inventory of community skills – retired people have skills they can pass on to others.
- workshops where people share their skills for free
- neighbours helping each other
- strengthen links between neighbours so we see more people chatting in the streets
- support group for people with disabilities
- promote our awesomeness - positive media stories
- database of services, groups
- supportive inclusive integrated community
- supportive of elderly, less social isolation
- social services hub
- more groups using the community-owned Community Centre on Wakefield Street
- violence free town: a place where domestic violence is not tolerated

Theme twelve: History and heritage

We want to see our heritage buildings revitalised, used, and preserved.

We see potential for tourism based around our unique heritage.

Some ideas:

- Celebrate and develop better knowledge of Māori history of the area
- Have both Featherston's official names (Pae Tū mōkai) recognised by the NZ Geographic Board
- Restore heritage buildings on main street
- Development of a permanent project that showcases the role of the military/prison camp and the town during two wars
- Better promotion/more visibility re: the town's history – the train, the army, the camp
 - Develop display and photo boards to bring it into public life
- Profile Anzac Hall – it's a treasure
- More entertainment to get more use of ANZAC Hall
- Digital recording of our oral, photographic and written history
- Develop an historical aspect to Featherston Cemetery

Theme thirteen: Waste not want not

We want to reduce waste and our impact on the environment by sharing and exchanging, recycling, repurposing, reusing, upcycling materials and resources.

“Think big” aspiration to be the Upcycling/Recycling/Recovery Centre of the Wairarapa. A community-enterprise, partnering with Councils in the establishment phase. Creating jobs for locals in the process. Using Raglan and other examples as models for what we can do here.

Some ideas:

- recycling; building materials, green waste into garden mulch
- plastic bag free town – support Boomerang Bags
- exchange hub – wood, compost, furniture etc.
- recycling business for building materials
revitalise old bikes – community build-a-bike workshop
- create a library of ‘things’ – e.g. tools, appliances etc.
- bee friendly town
- recycling bins for civic centre
- have a local rubbish tip – not have to travel to Martinborough

Theme fourteen: Food and gardening

We want to grow, exchange, share food locally. We don't want our abundant produce to go to waste when someone else in town could use it.

We want to attract initiatives that will provide locals with affordable fruit and veges.

We want to stay in town to eat out.

Some ideas:

- to be foodie heaven – attract lots of artisan food businesses
- more choice for eating out, including vegetarian and vegan options
- food supplies at reasonable prices
- vegetable co-op like in the Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti (\$10 for bag of seasonal veges)
- community orchard
- grow the food bank to include food-share, swap-a-crop concept
- community fridge and pantry to share surplus food
- use berms to grow community fruit trees and crops like potatoes
- community gardens are a great idea – better promotion and upkeep of the ones we have now
- community garden koha shed soup kitchen
- swap a crop market
- food collective that helps coordinate the distribution of surplus food – particularly fruit and vegetables
- bee friendly town
- gardening club to exchange ideas and plants
- a recognition of the joy that lots of Featherstonians take in their gardens – small or large. Shows spirit and a degree of contentment, don't you think?

Theme fifteen: Children and childcare

We want our children to be safe and to have access to good quality affordable age appropriate child care, operating in hours that suit working/studying parents/caregivers.

We want a range of kid-friendly activities for fun, sport, art, culture and recreation.

We want our kids to have world-class education that supports them to build confidence and resilience.

Some ideas:

- childcare, after school and before school; care for pre-schoolers and school-age children
- school Holiday programmes. Minecraft; traditional Māori crafts and games
- things to do on a rainy day
- improve toddlers pool
- expand the Library with more books & activities for children, and more space for events
- Book related and/or history related walks through Featherston. One idea is a kids walk based on the book "Olwen Twelve Pockets" by Fiona McKay (with her permission of course!) Each station could reveal the contents of a pocket and lead to the next pocket ... and end at a bookshop!
- fence around the playground
- new playground equipment: baby bucket swing, new wooden fort with easier to use large slide, rocking toys with springs etc.
- baby skate park at the playground
- a bigger playground with trampolines, with duck pond
- a playhouse at the town square & toy box and a toy hospital