



Wanganui District  
Community Outcomes Monitoring  
Report

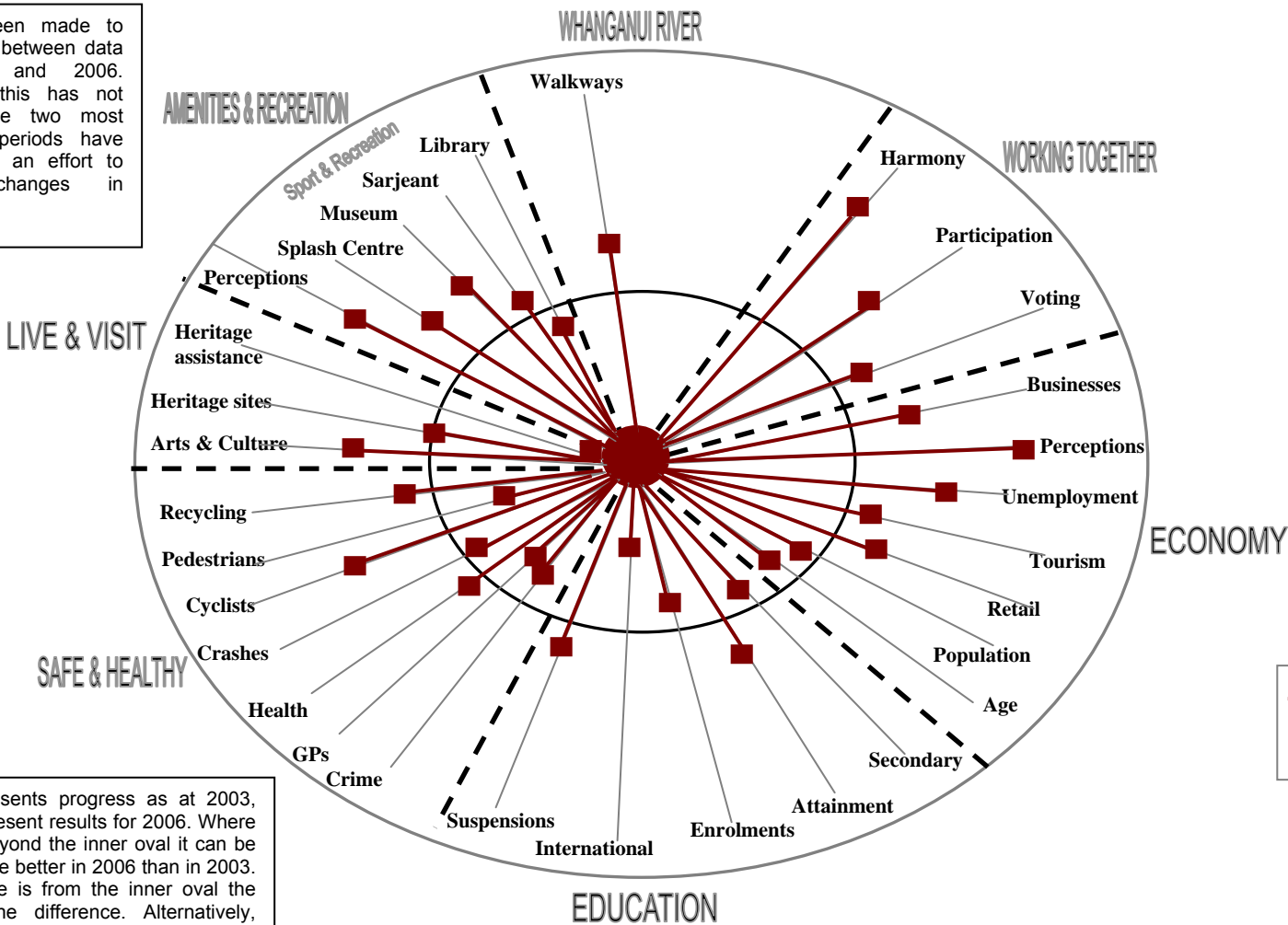
**February 2007**

## Summary

- **A growing economy** – there are a number of initiatives that are working to generate economic growth within Wanganui and a majority of local residents believe that Wanganui's economy is stronger today than it was three years ago. Many of these efforts have been directed by Wanganui Inc and work to date has focused on development activities, tourism promotion and events. There has also been demonstrated growth in the number of businesses, a decrease in the number of unemployment beneficiaries and an increasing trend in retail sales.
- **Diverse and quality educational opportunities** – educational options are generally meeting the aspirations of Wanganui residents by providing quality standards and diverse opportunities. Our qualification attainment rates are demonstrating improvement and opportunities for informal, life-long learning are encouraged by the library, Sarjeant Gallery and Regional Museum.
- **A safe and healthy community** – Council continues to work in partnership with other organisations to ensure that Wanganui remains a safe and healthy place to live and visit. These efforts are reflected in survey results which indicate that most residents believe this to be the case. However, ongoing efforts in crime reduction and health improvements must necessarily continue.
- **Recognition as a great place to live and visit** – 95% of residents would personally recommend Wanganui as a place to live. This suggests that Wanganui is an attractive and increasingly dynamic city, well placed to meet the needs of its residents. It also indicates that feelings of community pride and wellbeing are high.
- **Development of amenities and recreational opportunities** – a great majority of local residents are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with Wanganui's provision of recreational areas and facilities. Ongoing improvements in this area will continue with the Heart of Wanganui proposal, the Splash Centre extension, the youth driven 'Make It. Take It.' project, improvements at Cooks Gardens and Mainstreet Wanganui's events calendar.
- **Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River** – work on the Whanganui River has focused on aspects of accessibility, protection and disposal. This has seen an extension to the riverbank walkways, encouraged a future focus on flood control and stopbank construction and will eventually result in the completion of the new wastewater treatment plant. Expansion of the waterfront's appeal will continue with the Moutoa Quay development.
- **People working together** – a collaborative, community approach is an underlying tenet of the Community Outcomes. This has been achieved through partnership agreements with other organisations and ongoing efforts will continue to ensure that Wanganui people work together towards common goals.

The above results indicate that the Wanganui District is indeed making progress towards achieving its Community Outcomes. These results have been made possible due to the efforts of Wanganui's individuals, organisations and Council – a true coming together for the betterment of our city. In order to grow and improve, there will always be room for improvement, and as such, ongoing work, innovative approaches and collaborative partnerships must continue if we wish to achieve more for our District. This report helps describe the current situation in Wanganui and also forecasts upcoming efforts as we maintain our focus on the priorities specific to our city.

Attempts have been made to draw comparisons between data sets for 2003 and 2006. However, where this has not been possible the two most similar reporting periods have been assessed in an effort to best reflect changes in circumstance.



—■ 2006  
- - - 2003

The inner oval represents progress as at 2003, while the spokes represent results for 2006. Where the spokes extend beyond the inner oval it can be said that conditions are better in 2006 than in 2003. The further the spoke is from the inner oval the more pronounced the difference. Alternatively, where a spoke falls within the inner oval, conditions are worse in 2006 than in 2003. The further the spoke is from the centre circle the more pronounced the difference.

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**Note:** While in general the results underpinning this report are as at December 2006, there are a handful of actions that have been reported beyond this point (that is, to February 2007). In addition, some actions have been inserted post this date in an effort to reflect the most current trends in community perceptions and activities.

# Monitoring the Wanganui District Community Outcomes

In 1995 the Wanganui District Council began engaging the local community in the identification of long-term goals. This process was recognised by the Local Government Act in 2002 with the statutory requirement that all local authorities must ascertain, and subsequently report on progress towards, the Community Outcomes most relevant to their individual communities. This report recognises Wanganui's particular interest in the following:

1. **A growing economy.**
  - 1.1. Attraction of new businesses and industries to Wanganui.
  - 1.2. Development of services and infrastructure to support growth.
  - 1.3. Development of employment opportunities for youth.
  - 1.4. Creation of new jobs by new and existing employers.
  - 1.5. Development of the tourist product within the District.
  - 1.6. A demographically balanced and growing population.
2. **Diverse and quality educational opportunities.**
  - 2.1. Access to educational opportunities at all levels.
  - 2.2. Linking educational opportunities to employment.
  - 2.3. Preserving and developing tertiary opportunities.
  - 2.4. Development of educational activities and facilities that attract youth to the District.
3. **A safe and healthy community.**
  - 3.1. A safe environment.
  - 3.2. Provision of appropriate local healthcare services.
  - 3.3. A transportation network in which people can move easily and safely.
  - 3.4. A clean city.
  - 3.5. Access to recycling opportunities.
4. **Recognition as a great place to live and visit.**
  - 4.1. Making Wanganui attractive to youth.
  - 4.2. Continue to develop an improved Wanganui image.
  - 4.3. Promoting Wanganui well both locally and externally.
  - 4.4. Development and effective promotion of existing attractions.
  - 4.5. Promotion of the Whanganui River, the arts sector, heritage and sporting opportunities as our distinctive character.
5. **Development of amenities and recreational opportunities.**
  - 5.1. Development of activities and facilities for youth.
  - 5.2. Development and positive management of existing parks, walkways and reserves.
  - 5.3. Development and positive management of existing recreational and sports facilities.
  - 5.4. Development of arts facilities, performances and events.
  - 5.5. Continuing development of a vibrant Central Business District.
  - 5.6. Enhancement of the ecological and scenic values of the coastal environment and the recreational use of the beach.
6. **Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River.**
  - 6.1. Recognition of Iwi's special relationship with the River.
  - 6.2. Developing a coordinated approach to river promotion.
  - 6.3. Promotion of the River from the mountains to the sea.
  - 6.4. Promotion of cultural tourism.
  - 6.5. Safe access to the River for a variety of uses.
  - 6.6. Environmental enhancement of the River edge.
  - 6.7. Improving access to and use of the River edge.

## **7. People working together.**

- 7.1. Iwi working with the wider community.
- 7.2. Economic development agencies working together.
- 7.3. Education and employment sectors working together.
- 7.4. Marketing and promotion sectors working together.
- 7.5. The tourism sector working together.
- 7.6. The tourism sector working with Iwi.
- 7.7. The arts and cultural sector working together.
- 7.8. The sports sector working together.
- 7.9. Community input to determine funding priorities.
- 7.10. Community participation in the decision-making process.
- 7.11. An integrated vision with good leadership.

## **How were the Community Outcomes decided?**

Of principal importance is the fact that the Community Outcomes have been identified by the Wanganui community, for the Wanganui community.

This process is detailed below:

### **Step 1 – Stages of Life research**

In 2002 background research was undertaken to obtain a range of initial views from people in different stages of life including local media; central government and national lobbyist groups; local stakeholders; and elected members, about what matters to different people.

### **Step 2 – Other organisations and groups**

Other groups and organisations capable of influencing the identification or promotion of the Community Outcomes were identified. The Council sought agreement to the process from key stakeholders that the Council had built up a close working relationship with including the two local Iwi, the Police, the District Health Board, Whanganui UCOL and Work and Income New Zealand. However, the Council considered that the bodies capable of influencing either the identification or the promotion of community outcomes were much wider and to favour the views of a few would be to act in a biased manner. Therefore, it was decided that the process should be widely advertised asking for submissions on the process, and asking organisations if they would be interested in being involved in the Community Outcomes process and to work on those outcomes relevant to them.

The Council's message to the key stakeholders was that the Community Outcomes process was about capturing the views of the community, including the usual silent majority, about their priorities for improving wellbeing. There was a further opportunity in October 2004, as part of a regional forum, to engage with central and regional representatives from government and other organisations.

### **Step 3 - Communication**

A communication programme was established.

### **Step 4 – Engagement**

Public consultation took place during February and March 2003 and involved:

Councillor engagement with residents about what should be the priorities for improving the wellbeing of the community (89 meetings held over two months with more than 1000 people attending). At these meetings there was a short presentation covering progress on Community Priorities since 1997; the results of the 'What Matters' research was presented;

discussion and feedback was had regarding the group's priorities; and the findings were recorded.

### **Step 5 - Analysis**

There was analysis of the meeting notes by the Community Outcomes team with the assistance of the NVivo qualitative analysis software to identify the issues most often raised at the meetings and the relationships between issues. Related topics were identified to form outcome groupings.

### **Step 6 – Council consideration**

Elected members considered the draft Community Outcomes.

### **Step 7 - Consultation**

Consultation and consideration of public submissions on the draft Community Outcomes occurred in October 2003. Some minor amendments were made to the outcomes.

### **Step 8 - Finalisation**

Finalisation of the Community Outcomes occurred in December 2003. These were adopted at a meeting of the Council. All submitters and meeting hosts were sent a copy of the final outcomes and invited to be part of the action planning process.

## **Progress towards the Community Outcomes**

The attainment of Wanganui's Community Outcomes is not solely a Council concern. The achievement of these goals requires a collaborative community approach, and as such Council has demonstrated a commitment to working in partnership:

- Key stakeholders have been identified as being able to contribute to the Community Outcomes. Although Council already has relationships with many of these organisations, including the Police and Whanganui District Health Board, Council is also seeking to establish additional working relationships where necessary.
- As part of the action planning phase, meetings have been held with each of the key stakeholders to identify how they are contributing, or could contribute, to the Community Outcomes. Their agreement to the monitoring and reporting process has also been sought.
- The Council has also liaised with Central Government ministries, departments and agencies in order to develop relationships, seek buy-in and encourage contribution to the improvement of Wanganui's community wellbeing.

The following stakeholders have been identified as primary contributors:

| <b>Issue</b> | <b>Key stakeholders</b>   |
|--------------|---|
| Economy      | New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Chamber of Commerce, Wanganui Inc, Mainstreet Wanganui, Work and Income NZ, Federated Farmers |
| Education    | Whanganui UCOL, Ministry of Education   |
| Safety       | Whanganui Police, Land Transport New Zealand  |
| Health       | Whanganui District Health Board   |
| Environment  | Horizons Regional Council, Department of Conservation   |
| Iwi          | Tupoho and TamaUpoko  |
| Māori        | Te Puni Kokiri  |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Arts, culture and heritage | Arts, Culture and Heritage Development Trust, NZ Historic Places Trust |
| Sport and recreation       | Sport and Recreation Wanganui  |

As a result, this monitoring report aims to:

- Relay the efforts of various community organisations in their attempts to meet the Community Outcomes;
- Measure the state of Wanganui's current social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing; and
- Forecast planned projects and priorities that may impact on Community Outcomes into the future.

It should be noted that this report is not intended to act as an overly detailed monitoring account or action plan, it is instead concerned with providing a general overview of our current circumstances in an effort to assess whether Wanganui is in fact 'on track'. In order to accurately monitor this progress, each outcome has been assigned a number of monitoring indicators. The indicators are a mixture of qualitative and quantitative measures and have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders as part of the action planning process. These indicators will be monitored and measured regularly to detect changes in a particular 'condition'.

## Monitoring the Community Outcomes

Data collection, which is the actual physical gathering of information about a particular issue over time, will be undertaken regularly, depending on the availability of the data. The data will be analysed and interpreted for reporting progress back to the community at least once every three years.

Indicator data will be managed in an Excel spreadsheet and actions will be managed through our Interplan database.

This is the first report on progress toward achieving the Community Outcomes and details the actions undertaken by the Council as well as other specific stakeholder groups as listed on pages 7 and 8. Community perceptions have been captured through a Community Outcomes survey undertaken in December 2006. This telephone questionnaire was conducted on 440 randomly selected residents and covered the following:

| Community Outcome   | Question  |
|---|---|
| A growing economy   | 1. "Do you think Wanganui's economy is stronger today than it was three years ago?"<br>2. "Why is that?"  |
| Diverse and quality educational opportunities                                       | 3. "How satisfied are you with the level of choice offered by Wanganui's education providers?"<br>4. "How satisfied are you with the quality of education offered by Wanganui's education providers?"                           |
| A safe and healthy community  | 5. "Do you think Wanganui is a safe city?"<br>6. "What aspects of safety do you think make Wanganui an unsafe city?"<br>7. "How satisfied are you with Wanganui's provision of local healthcare services?"<br>8. "Why is that?" |
| Recognition as a great place to live and visit                                      | 9. "Given your overall impression of Wanganui, would you personally recommend Wanganui as a place to live?"   |
| Development of amenities and recreational opportunities                             | 10. "How satisfied are you with Wanganui's recreation areas and facilities?"<br>11. "Why is that?"  |
| Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River | 12. "How satisfied are you with the quality of the Whanganui River and its immediate surrounds?"  |
| People working together   | 13. "How well do you think Wanganui's different community organisations work together?"   |

Reviewing and revising monitoring procedures will be required to ensure the required outcomes are being met. Monitoring over time will confirm the appropriateness of the existing activities, or may identify the need to make changes in order to improve their effectiveness.

Ongoing review of Council's partner organisations in the Community Outcomes process will also be undertaken to ensure effective practices of community collaboration and to broadly reflect the achievements of the Wanganui District. It should be noted that this is the first Community Outcomes Monitoring Report and it is hoped that future updates will incorporate an even wider overview of community activity.

## A growing economy



Residents believe that Wanganui's economy is demonstrating ongoing improvement, with 70% indicating that the economy is stronger today than it was three years ago. Although the most recent results released by BERL rank Wanganui 57<sup>th</sup> overall out of 72 local authorities, this gives Wanganui a lower middle position among other Districts in the North Island and means that we have outperformed Gisborne, Papakura, South Taranaki and South Waikato Districts.

### Importance of a growing economy

| Indicator                      | Relevance   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Growth in number of businesses | Growth in the number of businesses is a leading indicator of current and future employment and economic activity. Vigorous business growth is a sign of a healthy local economy.  |
| Community perception           | The community's perception of District growth provides an indication of economic confidence and general business vibrancy. This captures the opinion of the local, often non-business population and provides an intuitive overview of our current situation.   |
| Unemployment                   | Unemployment affects personal income and therefore the ability of households to purchase goods and services. Trends in unemployment reflect levels of economic activity, demographic trends, skill levels and social policies. They can also illustrate pressures within the labour market.                   |
| Tourism                        | Tourists are an important source of demand for local businesses. The number of bed nights purchased by tourists indicates growth in domestic economic activity.   |
| Retail sales                   | Change in retail expenditure reflects the health of the local economy. Locally spent dollars potentially contribute to more jobs for local residents and higher profits for local businesses. Increases in retail spending may also be linked to increased disposable income and higher levels of employment. |
| Population                     | Significant increases or declines in population have major effects on infrastructure, the economy and the nature of the city, such as future resource use and   |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
|               | demand for goods and services.   |
| Age structure | The age structure of a community is one of its fundamental characteristics. It impacts on the range of services, facilities and opportunities that need to be planned for and provided at a local level. |

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***Chamber of Commerce***

- Submitted on Council's earthquake prone building policy and the Government's Building Act.
- Continued its provision of website services and business statistics.

### ***Federated Farmers***

- Began investigations into improved broadband access for high country residents. Federated Farmers continues to work collaboratively with Wanganui, Horizons, Rangitikei and Ruapehu Councils.

### ***Mainstreet Wanganui***

- Successfully promoted and assisted with preparations for the River Queen premiere.

### ***NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE)***

- Undertook ongoing tourism work through the Major Regional Initiative with an increase to date in international tourist numbers.
- Demonstrated involvement with Wanganui's arts sector, facilitated improved information sharing and collaboration and encouraged local artists to export work and attend business courses.
- Partnered with the Waimarie, yielding an increase in international passenger numbers.
- Funded Enterprise and other business training through Wanganui Inc.
- Funded training courses specifically for tourism and creative sector businesses through Wanganui Inc.
- Provided funding and business advice, including a focus on export capability, to individual Wanganui businesses.
- Provided sponsorship funding for the Wanganui Business Awards.

### ***Te Puni Kokiri***

- Provided funding to the Māori Tourism Group.
- Assisted Māori artists through collaboration with the Sarjeant Gallery on the Māori art exhibition 'Turning Point'.
- Participated in the Regional Partnership.

### ***Work and Income***

- Began work on the development of Wanganui industry partnerships in the retail, hospitality, meat and tourism sectors. This has included the delivery of training and employment programmes, with the achievement of actual employment outcomes for course participants.
- The Regional Labour Market Team implemented a labour market engagement programme to identify industry partnership and community based employment opportunities through the 'Enterprising Communities' concept. This programme includes membership of the Wanganui, Rangitikei and Ruapehu Labour Market Advisory Group and encourages active engagement with Iwi, Māori and other community organisations.
- Provided funding to research and support employment in local tourism ventures.

- Initiated programmes to support long-term benefit recipients return to the workforce. Services have included career advice and CV preparation, job search seminars, access to recruitment websites and in-work support services.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

#### Central Business District services

- Contributed infrastructure in an ongoing effort to support economic growth, improve Wanganui's image and instill community pride.

#### Library

- Continued its work with Massey University through the partnered research project 'Literacy and Employment in Wanganui'. These efforts will contribute to the building and sustenance of the knowledge base within the Wanganui community.

#### Minor transport

- Wanganui's airport continued to strive for improved service and infrastructure, including aviation development to support activity, business and employment. A reseal of the runway was undertaken in February 2007.
- The Durie Hill elevator was maintained as a unique and historic tourist attraction.

#### Regional Museum

- Continued to provide a key tourist destination with demonstrated links and assistance to other tourist operators, for example through provision of an historical and cultural introduction to the region.

#### Sarjeant Gallery

- Continued to provide a public art museum of national significance. This contributed to Wanganui's commercial and industrial development through promotion of the city as an attractive option for investors, while bolstering efforts in staff retention.

### ***Community support***

#### Community development

- Appointed an arts developer to compile an arts database and seek improvements in the marketing and coordination of this sector.

#### Economic development – Wanganui Inc

- Council developed a long-term economic development strategy in partnership with key wealth generators in the community. This has focused on the removal of barriers for businesses looking to expand or relocate to Wanganui.
- Established a new economic development agency, Wanganui Inc. Work concentrated on the following areas – improving Wanganui's image, increasing visitor numbers, addressing skills shortages and creating a supportive environment for small and medium sized businesses. Wanganui Inc became a Council Controlled Organisation in October 2005 with a governing board appointed by the Council.
- Participated, managed and selected key events, including the River Queen Premiere, Boxing Day Concert and Mayoral Mile.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Wanganui Airport management.
- Operated Wanganui District Council Holdings Limited as a Council Controlled Organisation. The Company's business is to primarily hold shares in Wanganui Gas Limited and other subsidiaries or undertakings transferred to the Company, to provide strategic planning advice to Council when required and to undertake other matters as determined by the Board, in conjunction with Council.

#### Wanganui Inc

- Continued its role as a recognised business training provider through the Enterprise Training Programme, securing an additional two years of funding through this scheme.
- Made progress towards production of a long-term marketing campaign to attract people and business to the District.

- Developed partnerships within the region through membership of Enterprise Mid-West and an International Marketing Alliance with Taranaki and Manawatu.
- Established a Tourism Advisory Group to provide advice for tourism marketing District-wide.
- Delivered school education programmes through NZTE with a focus on the development of 'enterprising cultures'.
- Collaborated with Westbourne Estate and contributed to the Wanganui Growth Strategy.
- Achieved increased networks through consultation with Ministry of Social Development, Work and Income and NZTE.
- Undertook a review of systems and processes for dealing with local businesses.
- Began contract work in the field of economic research.
- Undertook ongoing consultation with the business community through its business network.

#### Environmental policy

- Began development of a growth study to identify and best provide for growth in Wanganui.
- Reviewed the Development Contributions policy to ensure that those responsible for development that places additional demand on the District's infrastructure, reserves and facilities contribute a fair and reasonable portion towards the provision of those services.

#### ***Investments***

##### Property

- Continued to manage property assets for the economic benefit of the wider community.
- Sold land under the Quay School of the Arts and Bowlarama buildings to UCOL as part of the campus convergence project. It is anticipated that the revitalisation of this area will contribute to a vibrant tertiary education sector.

#### ***Water***

##### Wastewater

- Ensured that Wanganui's industry was not disadvantaged by heavy trade waste charges.

#### ***Corporate***

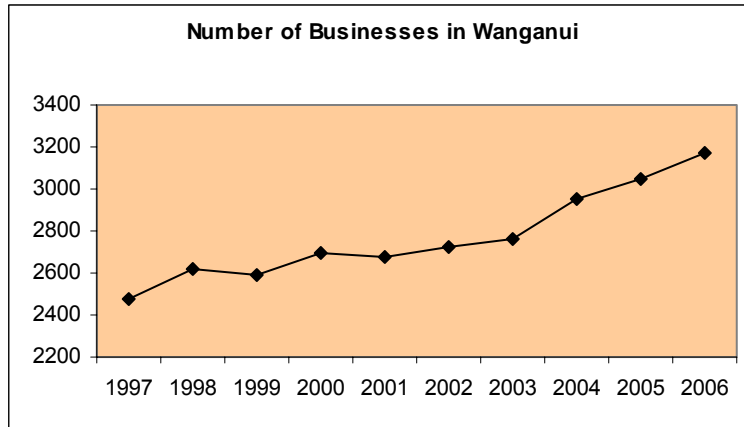
##### Corporate management

- Reviewed external contracts and internal Council efficiency, resulting in a reduction to the staff budget of \$569,000.

## **A growing economy?**

### **Growth in number of businesses**

Wanganui has demonstrated a sustained increase in the number of businesses since 2001. As at February 2005, there were 3,049 businesses and by February 2006 that number had risen to 3,174. The 2006 Business Confidence survey suggested that local businesses were, in general, cautiously optimistic about future economic trends. The construction sector and related sub-trades have enjoyed a particularly busy period with involvement in major commercial developments such as the Mitre 10 Mega Store and Pak N Save.

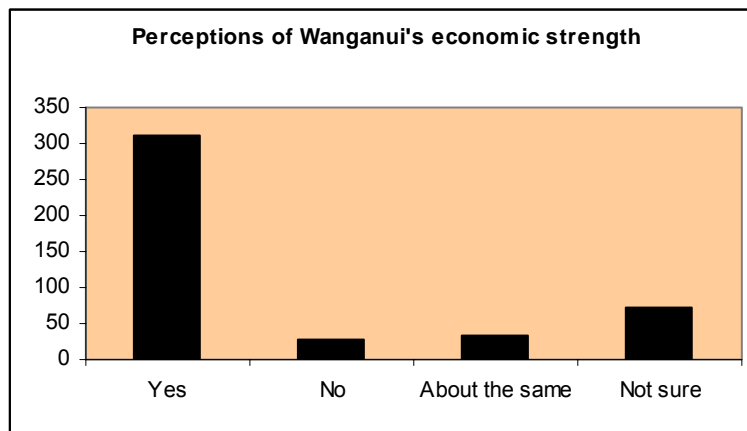


Source: Statistics NZ

### Community perception

This growth is also reflected in the positive perceptions of Wanganui’s economy as voiced by local residents. In response to the question “do you think Wanganui’s economy is stronger today than it was three years ago?” the following results were recorded:

| Response       | Number of responses | Percentage |
|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Yes            | 310                 | 70.5       |
| No             | 27                  | 6.1        |
| About the same | 32                  | 7.3        |
| Not sure       | 71                  | 16.1       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>440</b>          | <b>100</b> |



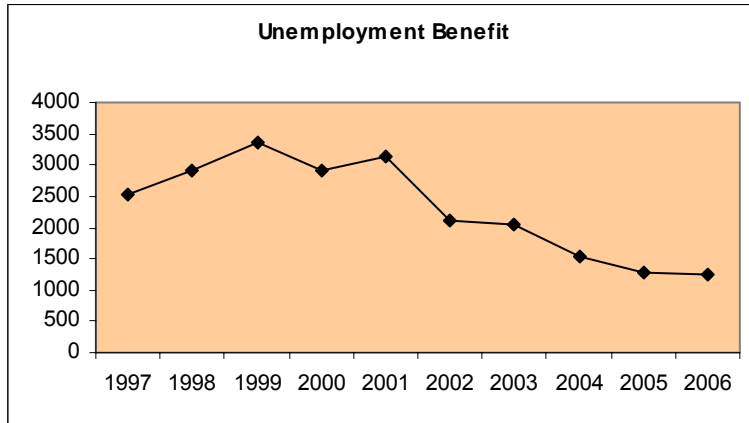
Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

Negative comments were few (203 positive responses, 31 negative) and tended to focus on a lack of business growth. In the 2003 Community Views Survey there was more focus on economic demands, particularly unemployment, population growth and industry issues. Results from the 2003 survey include:

- 16% of respondents indicated that unemployment, a need for more jobs and a focus on jobs for young people would be key concerns for Wanganui over the next few years.
- 14% identified the attraction of business and industry.
- 9% were concerned about population retention, particularly with regard to young residents.

### Unemployment

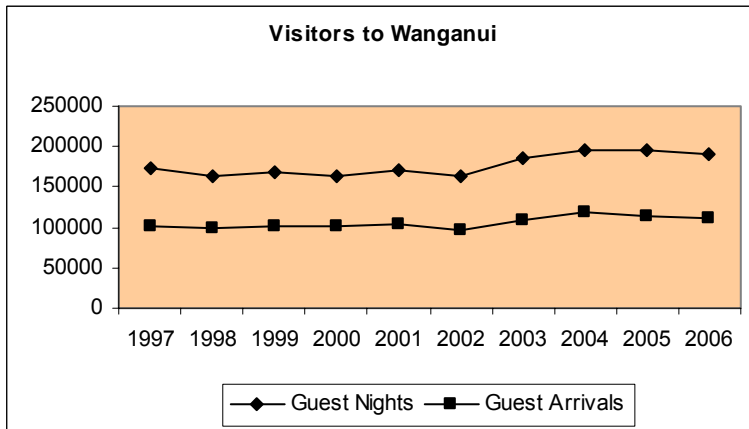
Unemployment levels have also improved, with a continuing decline in the number of people receiving the unemployment benefit since 2001.



Source: Work and Income NZ

### Tourism

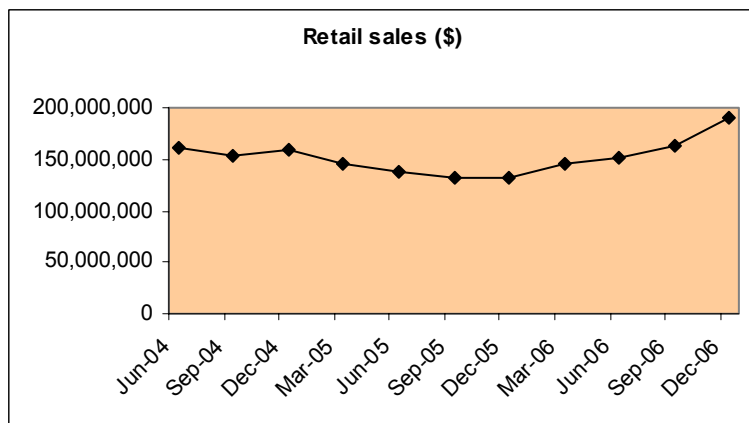
While both guest nights and arrivals had been increasing in 2003 and 2004 these numbers began a decline in 2005 which has continued. In 2006 Wanganui recorded a total of 190,502 guest nights and 111,686 guest arrivals.



Source: Wanganui Inc

### Retail sales

An increase of \$31,200,000 in retail sales was posted in September 2006, in comparison to the same period in 2005. This is similarly noted by residents who claim that Wanganui's retail scene has demonstrated increased vibrancy.

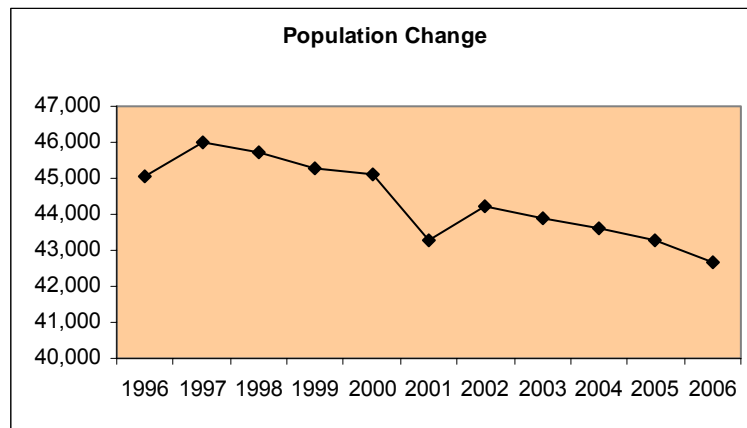


Source: Statistics NZ

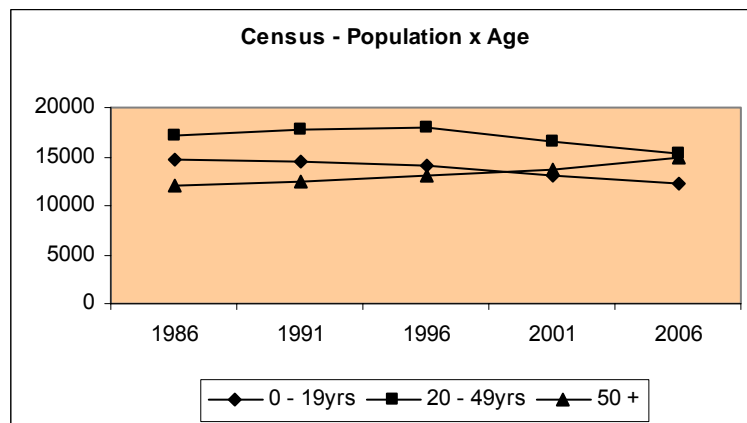
### Population and age structure

Wanganui's population has continued to fall in light of Census figures for 2006. In 1996 the population was 45,042, in 2001 it was 43,266 and in 2006 it rested at 42,639. However, this represents a smaller loss than in previous years of 627 or 1.45%. An aging population is also emerging as increases in the 50+ age bracket run concurrently to declines in those aged 49 years and younger.

Despite these patterns of population decline there has been growth in the number of households since 2001. In 2001 there were 16,791 households and this increased by 333 in 2006 to 17,124.



Source: Statistics NZ



Source: Statistics NZ

### Conclusion

There has been a clear increase in the number of businesses in Wanganui since 2003. This progress is coupled with a decline in the number of unemployment beneficiaries and a significant leap in retail sales (\$438,284,000 total in 2003 and \$649,100,000 total in 2006). Although guest nights and arrivals appear to be falling, in general Wanganui's economy has displayed sustained growth and community perceptions indicate that residents are generally positive about our economic position. While Wanganui's population has not demonstrated growth in the period from 2001 to 2006, there is still a majority perception of vitality and economic progression.

### A growing economy into the future

#### Community actions

- NZTE will continue its tourism work through the Major Regional Initiative, collaboration with the arts sector, partnership with the Waimarie and provision of training, funding and business advice to the Wanganui community.

- Federated Farmers will continue long-term action for the establishment of improved broadband access in the high country.
- Mainstreet Wanganui will revisit work on an Italian translation of the 'Wanganui – the journey' booklet.
- Te Puni Kokiri will continue its involvement with the Regional Partnership.
- The Chamber of Commerce will continue to provide website services and business statistics.
- Work and Income employment programmes will continue.

**Council actions**

- The economic development work of Wanganui Inc will continue as an in-house function of Council. This programme is expected to include the delivery of a long-term marketing campaign to improve the image of the District, developments within the tourism sector, support for business relocation and expansion and partnership agreements with neighbouring areas. The coordination of tourism marketing will also be delivered, including participation in Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand (TRENZ ) once a year.
- Additional economic development functions are likely to include:
  - Adherence to the Economic Development Strategy. This promotes on-going communication with the business community in order to identify economic development issues, prioritise their significance and develop appropriate policy responses.
  - Development of a specific events strategy.
  - Development of relationships with Māori Tourism.
  - Continued support for Wanganui's regional partnerships, with the intent of initiating wider regional partnerships as required.
- Ongoing sponsorship arrangements with the Masters Games will be satisfied, with Council funding distributed on a two-yearly basis.
- Mainstreet Wanganui will continue to receive sponsorship to support events within the central shopping area.
- Council would like i-SITE to move from its current location to a more publicly accessible spot.
- Investigations will continue with regard to the Wanganui East bore. While pilot trials to evaluate the capital and operating costs of this new facility have been completed, Council will not seek resource consent until further work has been undertaken on the sourcing of a soft water supply. Investigations into soft water sources and other potential bulk water supplies have excluded Lenihan Street bore as a preferred option.
- Work on the wastewater treatment plant and Mowhanau sewerage system upgrade will continue as will private and public stormwater separation.
- The airport terminal upgrade is anticipated to be completed by mid-September 2007.
- A programme to replace street trees and upgrade verandah lighting in the Central Business District will be implemented.
- Funding will be provided to create permanent bollards around the Cemetery Circuit.
- A growth strategy will be developed and the District Plan reviewed.

## Diverse and quality educational opportunities



Wanganui offers a range of education options from early childhood providers to tertiary institutes. Satisfaction with this selection is varied; however, a significant majority of surveyed participants indicate that they are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with both the level of choice and quality afforded by Wanganui's education providers.

### Importance of diverse and quality educational opportunities

| Indicator                        | Relevance  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Secondary school provision       | With decreases in the school age population and therefore falling school rolls, there is pressure on schools to remain viable to provide for diverse educational opportunities. There are also issues in Wanganui with some schools having 'more than their share' of the students.  |
| Level of educational attainment  | The educational attainment of the adult population is an important indicator of the skills available in the economy. The level of formal educational qualifications in the population is a commonly used proxy for the stock of 'human capital', i.e. the skills available in the population and labour force.   |
| Student enrolments               | The number of student enrolments provides a measure of our young population, while also reflecting the viability of Wanganui's secondary schools. Educational achievement is essential for effective participation in society, and access to life-long learning opportunities is related to a community's need for self-fulfilment and self-determination. |
| Number of international students | International students are an important source of economic revenue for the community in which they choose to study. One reason for the choice of location is the quality of the available education institutes.  |
| Early leaving rates              | Early leaving rates provide an indication of our skilled labour force. This recognises that educational achievement is essential for effective participation in society and that an  |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | educated population is more likely to contribute to the vibrancy and creativity of the District. Furthermore, an examination of the circumstances behind suspensions and early exemptions can highlight the significant issues facing our young people.   |
| Community perception | Satisfaction with the quality of, and access to, diverse education options is important to the preservation of a young and educated population. An active focus on both these elements provides a number of flow-on benefits including a strong economy, life-long learning opportunities and reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour. |

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***Chamber of Commerce***

- Sponsored the 2005 Business Awards.
- Supported Whanganui UCOL's business and administration course.

### ***Ministry of Education***

- Sent information on the contract initiative "using data to inform planning for improving student achievement" to all schools.
- Held a public road show in November 2006 to encourage participation in early childhood education programmes.
- Continued ongoing work to effect reductions in the number of suspensions and early leaving exemptions. Results to date indicate that there has been a decrease in both measures.
- Met early childhood training and registration targets. This ensured that 50% of all local teachers attained the necessary training and registration standards.

### ***Whanganui UCOL***

- Continued to deliver online education programmes.
- Introduced a Bachelor of Nursing and a Bachelor of Creative Industries.
- Reintroduced trade and technology programmes at the Wanganui campus.
- Actively collaborated with Wanganui Inc in the delivery of online education programmes.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with local Iwi.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

#### Library

- Continued its work with Massey University in the partnered research project, 'Literacy and Employment in Wanganui' and delivered additional education programmes with the purpose of supporting life-long learning and sustaining the knowledge base of the Wanganui community.

#### Regional Museum

- Acted as an ongoing resource for, and champion of, life-long learning and education opportunities. This has included the provision of education programmes and support for self-led learning potential community wide.

#### Sarjeant Gallery

- Continued to support education outcomes with the delivery of Ministry of Education driven 'Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom' contracts and sustained

partnerships with Whanganui UCOL. The Gallery has direct Memorandums of Understanding with both organisations.

### ***Community support***

#### Economic development – Wanganui Inc

- Initiated an Enterprise Culture and Skills Activities (ECSA) project.

#### Environmental policy

- Operated environmental youth education programmes in conjunction with DoC and Horizons Regional Council.

### ***Governance***

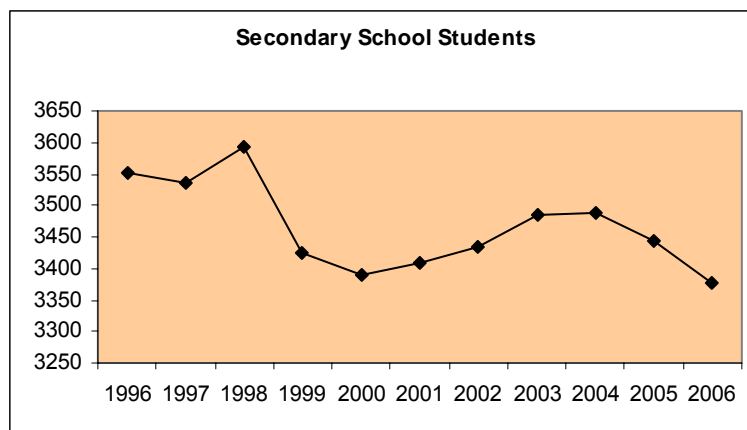
#### Governance and democracy

- Maintained dialogue with UCOL about the future of tertiary education in Wanganui. This has included liaison regarding the Campus Converge Project and the Heart of Wanganui proposal.
- Agreed to underwrite the funds shortfall incurred by UCOL glass courses for 2007-2009, enabling every student enrolled for this year to complete their studies. This will also ensure that Wanganui retains its iconic glass education facility, and provides capacity to expand and broaden glass design and production in Wanganui.

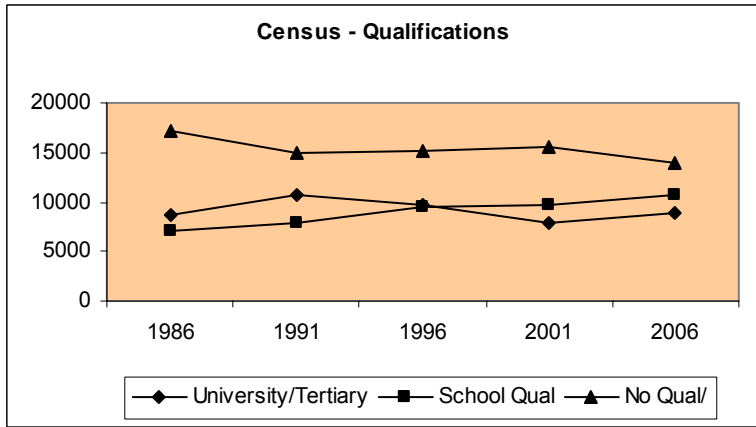
## **Diverse and quality educational opportunities?**

### **Secondary school provision and level of educational attainment**

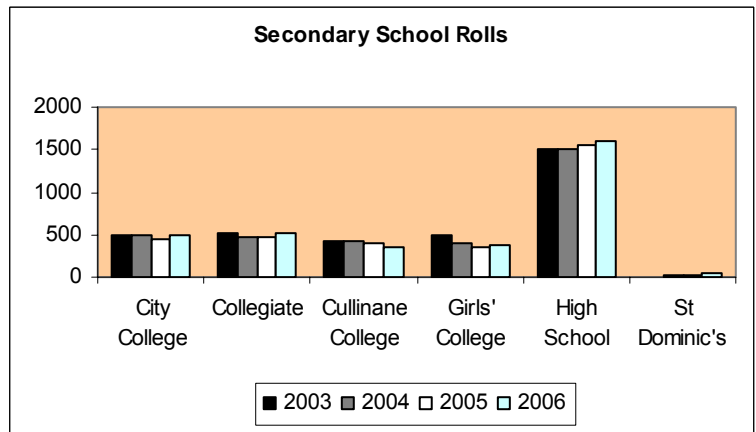
Wanganui offers a multitude of educational options, including six secondary, 21 full primary, 11 contributing, one special needs and two intermediate schools. While the first graph identifies a decline in Wanganui's secondary school aged population, the following graph reflects gains in educational attainment between the two most recent Census periods. Furthermore, changes in the composition of our secondary school rolls continue to indicate an unequal distribution of students, with 1,611 enrolments at Wanganui High School in 2006.



Source: Ministry of Education



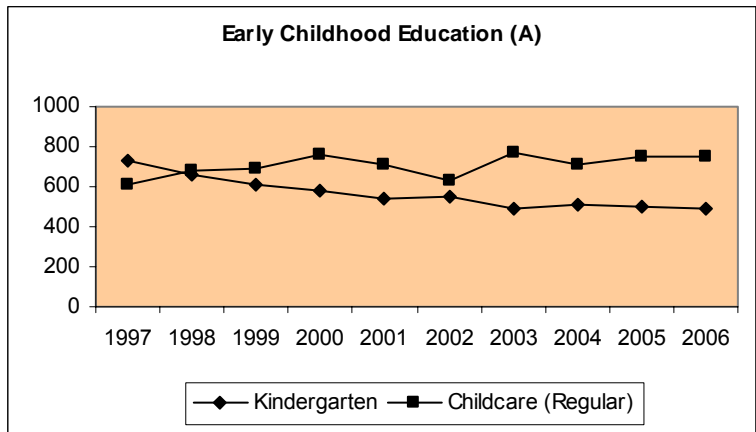
Source: Statistics NZ



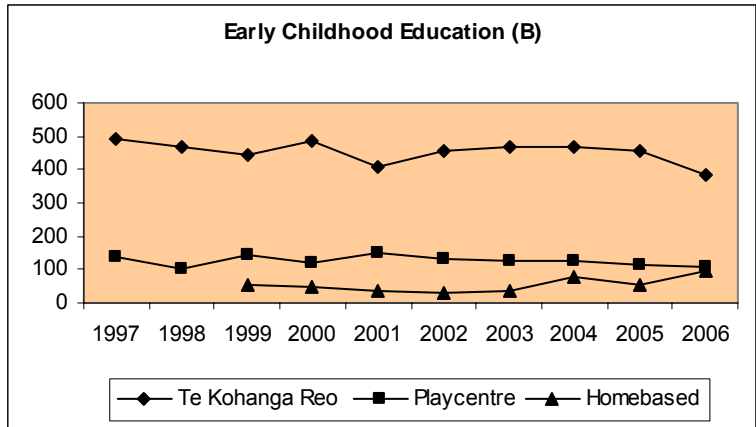
Source: Ministry of Education

### Student enrolments

While there has been a drop in the number of early childhood enrolments, the popularity of homebased options has emerged. This has resulted in the highest recorded total since data collection began in 1999 and demonstrates an increase of 34 students between 2005 and 2006.

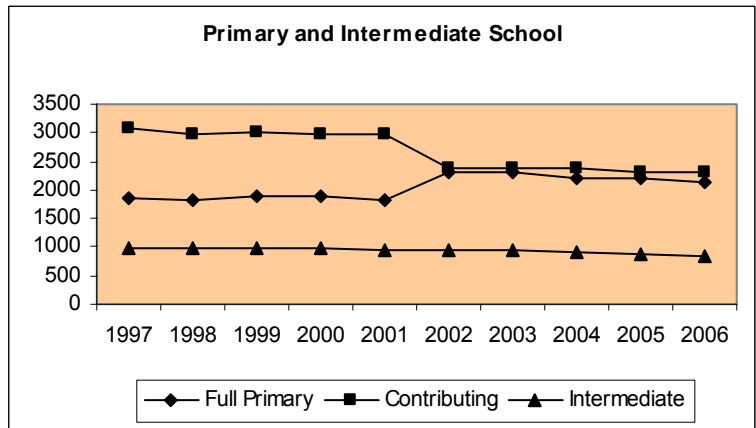


Source: Ministry of Education



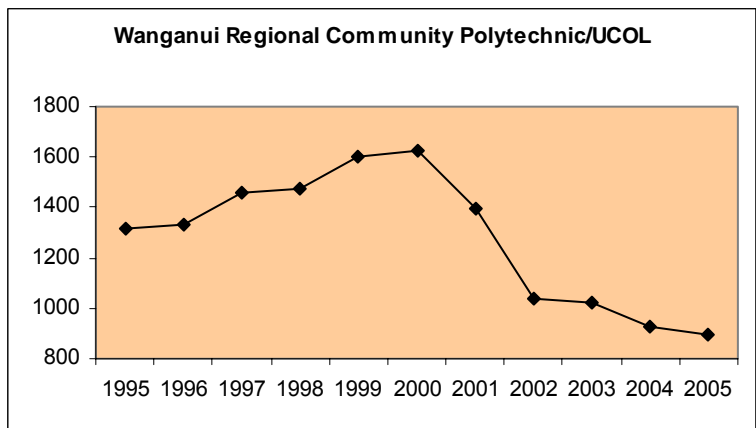
Source: Ministry of Education

Primary school rolls have also continued a pattern of decline initiated in 2000. Overall enrolments now total 5,265, representing a percentage change of -2.1% on the previous year.



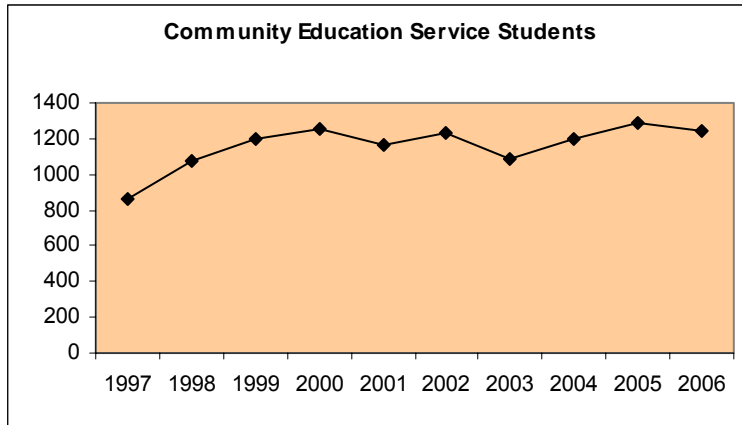
Source: Ministry of Education

Full time student enrolments at Whanganui UCOL continued to decline between 2003 and 2005, however, this gap was closing as at the end of 2005. The most recent enrolment statistics will be available following the release of Whanganui UCOL's Annual Report for 2006.



Source: Whanganui UCOL

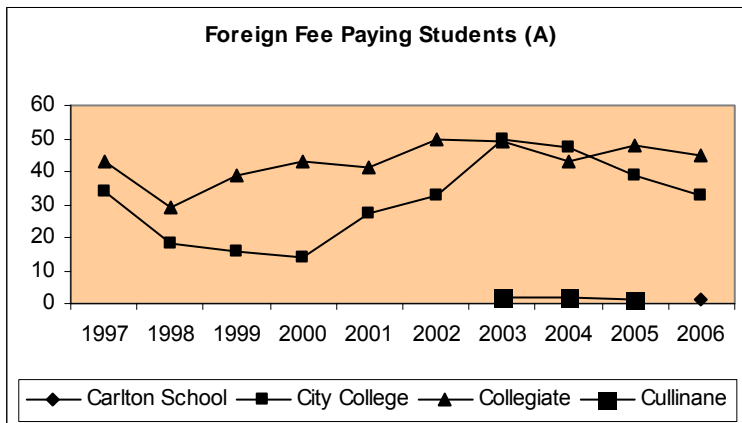
The Community Education Service exists as an alternative education provider and enrolled 1,242 students in 2006. While this number is slightly down on the previous year, it still represents a larger student body than the yearly intakes of 2001 to 2004. Student numbers for



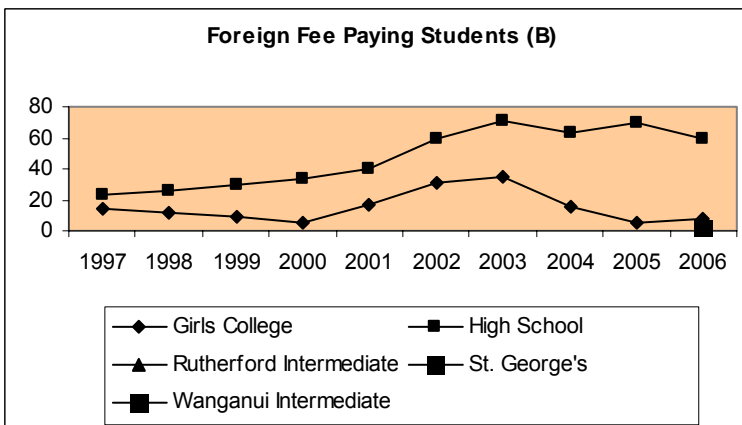
Source: Community Education Service

### Number of international students

Foreign fee paying students continue to bolster Wanganui's student population. Although there were slightly fewer enrolments in 2006 at 153 as opposed to 163, numbers have remained well above 100 since 2001.



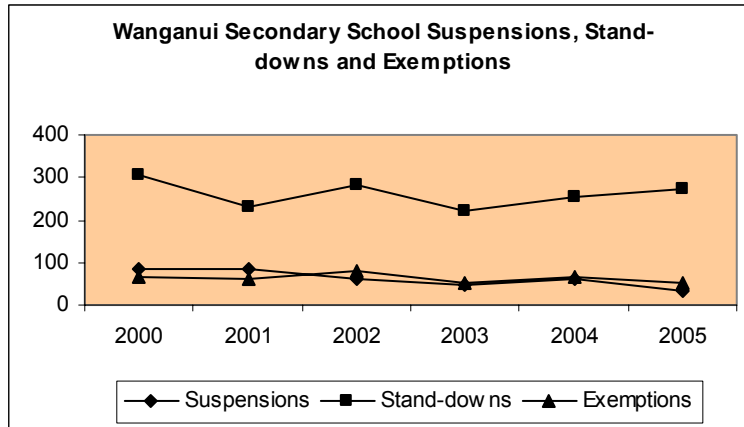
Source: Ministry of Education



Source: Ministry of Education

### Early leaving rates

Retention of mainstream students has also been monitored, with positive gains demonstrated in the reduction of suspensions and exemptions. Although there has been an increase in the number of stand downs administered (272), incidents had been decreasing from a high of 305 in 2000.



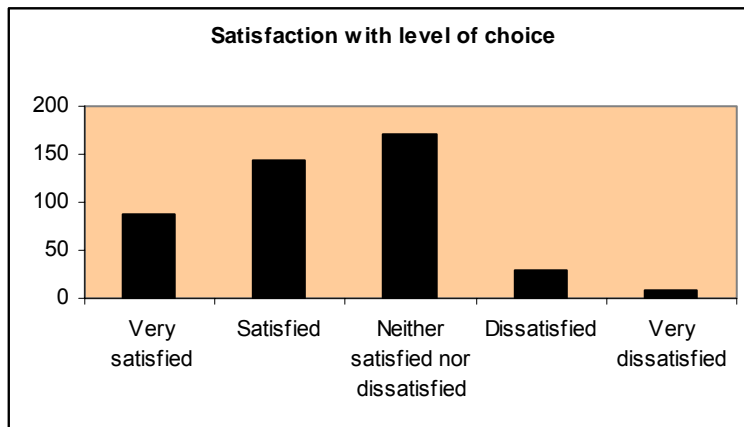
Source: Ministry of Education

### Community perception

Community perceptions regarding education provision suggest a concentration of residents are generally satisfied with the available opportunities. The following results are from the Community Outcomes survey:

“How satisfied are you with the level of choice offered by Wanganui’s education providers?”

| Response                           | Number of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied                     | 88                  | 20         |
| Satisfied                          | 144                 | 32.7       |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 171                 | 38.9       |
| Dissatisfied                       | 29                  | 6.6        |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 8                   | 1.8        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>440</b>          | <b>100</b> |

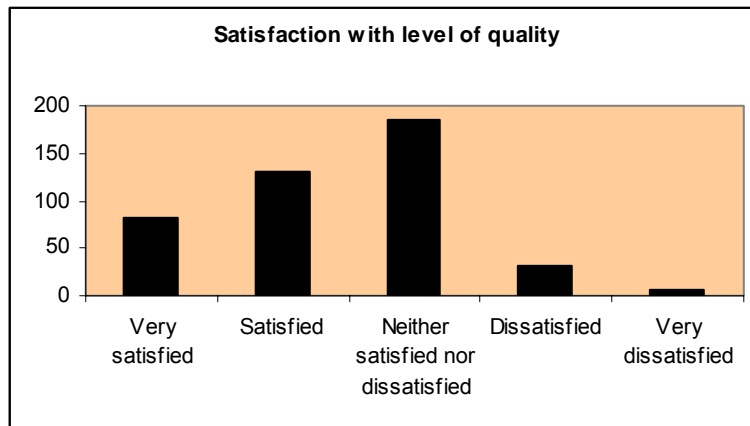


Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

“How satisfied are you with the quality of education offered by Wanganui’s education providers?”

| Response                           | Number of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied                     | 83                  | 18.9       |
| Satisfied                          | 131                 | 29.8       |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 186                 | 42.4       |
| Dissatisfied                       | 32                  | 7.3        |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 7                   | 1.6        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>439</b>          | <b>100</b> |

Note: one respondent declined to answer



Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

## Conclusion

While the Community Outcomes survey suggests that Wanganui is not leading the way in either quality or quantity of education provision, this could be due to the predominance of respondents over the age of 50 (68.4%) who indicated that they felt little connection to the current education system. A drop in participants at all levels of the education spectrum has continued, however, the incidence of formal academic qualifications has risen, with Census 2006 figures revealing that Wanganui is home to 966 more tertiary graduates than in 2001.

## Diverse and quality educational opportunities into the future

Residents are generally happy with both the quality and diversity of Wanganui's education provision. Likely considerations into the future may focus on maintaining ongoing satisfaction and retaining a school-aged population. While large numbers of students continue to opt for the public, co-educational Wanganui High School the viability of other secondary schools may suffer. Currently 48% of secondary students are enrolled at Wanganui High School, 51% are split relatively evenly between Collegiate, City College, Cullinane College and Girls' College and 1% attend St Dominic's.

### **Community actions**

- Whanganui UCOL will continue to deliver online education programmes to best meet the needs of diverse students. An investigation into appropriate delivery options for the reintroduced trade and technology programmes will be undertaken, an Education Plan will be implemented and the development of the new campus pursued. Active collaboration with Council will continue through the Computers in Homes project. Ongoing work will also continue with Iwi and an investigation into the education needs of the wider regional community will be undertaken.
- The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor vouchers for the UCOL business course.
- The Ministry of Education will continue efforts to reduce the number of suspensions and early leaving exemptions issued in the Wanganui District.

### **Council actions**

- Council will continue its work with UCOL, particularly with regard to the glass school. Future collaboration is likely to include the creation of a private training establishment (PTE) known as the 'New Zealand College of Glass'. It is hoped that this will be established in 2008, following the formal accreditation process.
- Wanganui Inc will implement its ECSA project.
- Wanganui's library service will continue to ensure:
  - That the Wanganui District community is well-informed, with a constant informational window on the world.
  - That the knowledge base and economic infrastructure of the Wanganui District is well-resourced for research, study and life-long learning.
  - The fostering of literature and the future empowerment of Wanganui children.

- That literacy-based programmes are delivered to children and teenagers throughout the year.
- Contract targets for the Ministry of Education's education programmes will be met at the Regional Museum and Sarjeant Gallery.
- The Community Development activity will continue to ensure that there are appropriate services available for all citizens in services including education.
- Environmental policy staff will attend at least three school or education centre events per year.
- Council will continue to provide waste minimisation information to local schools, with an increase in education programmes to a total of eight per annum by 2015/16.

## A safe and healthy community



The safety of local residents is a primary concern. Recent survey results suggest that 65% of residents believe Wanganui to be a safe city while 69% exhibit either satisfaction or indifference with regard to the provision of healthcare services. Other factors relevant to the maintenance of a safe and healthy community include crime levels, traffic safety and visual amenity.

### Importance of a safe and healthy community

| Indicator                          | Relevance   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Crime levels                       | Crime is a topic of great public concern. For many, the concern emerges from a perception that rising levels of crime constitute an increasing threat to their safety, their property and sense of wellbeing.   |
| Perceptions of safety              | Perceptions of safety impact on the health and wellbeing of the individual, family and the wider community. If people feel unsafe they are less likely to talk to their neighbours, use public transport, go out in the evening, use public amenities and generally participate in their communities. Perceptions of safety include both day and night time concerns with regard to property and personal threats at home and away from home. |
| Perceptions of healthcare services | Community perceptions indicate important 'satisfaction' results commensurate with the current success and applicability of healthcare infrastructure. This provides an opportunity to assess strengths and weaknesses and can pinpoint specific shortcomings in the healthcare system.  |
| Number of general practitioners    | GPs are part of the front line of primary health care provision. Access to a GP is an important issue in both the treatment and prevention of poor health. The number of GPs may reflect accessibility to health services, while a lower rate of GPs per head of population may result in difficulty accessing primary health care and is often associated with higher rates of hospitalisation.  |
| Access to public hospital          | The overall health and wellbeing of the Wanganui District is a significant concern.   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | Reasonable proximity to public health care is a useful measure of access to crucial services, and is important to quality of life.   |
| Health status     | The health status of Wanganui is ranked against all other DHBs and is based on life expectancy and deprivation results.  |
| Road safety       | The increasing number of cars on roads brings greater risk of injury and fatality from motor vehicle incidents. This indicator shows the number of people killed or seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes.  |
| Cycle safety      | The safety of cyclists is measured by both personal safety measures, such as cycle helmet wearing rates, and by external threats to safety, such as cyclist casualties caused by other road users. The ability to participate in a safe physical environment is a basic human concern, and can contribute to residents' sense of wellbeing.  |
| Pedestrian safety | Safety and perceptions of safety are important indicators of the community's view of its living environment. Feeling safe and secure on our District's roads and walkways is critical to this view.  |
| Visual quality    | Graffiti strongly impacts on the way people feel about where they live. It is perceived as an act of vandalism and can contribute to people feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood, thereby impacting negatively on personal wellbeing.   |
| Recycling         | Waste is material that is perceived to have no further use and which is released into the environment as a means of disposal. If it is not effectively managed it can create a range of adverse environmental and human health effects undermining our ability to live sustainably. The use of recycling for waste materials will enhance the sustainability of the environment and reduce the effects of waste. |

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***Horizons Regional Council***

- Delivered Land Transport New Zealand programmes, including driver licensing, drink driving and car seat awareness.
- Reviewed transport services and continued to provide bus passenger transport in the urban area.

### ***Land Transport New Zealand***

- Funded projects for Council's land transport programme, including pavement maintenance, cleaning funds, road barrier and intersection improvements, road sealing, pavement treatment, and road marking and traffic signal funds.

### **Mainstreet Wanganui**

- Undertook bylaw enforcement in the Central Business District.
- Carried out footpath safety inspections.
- Enforced health and safety compliance with regard to tradespeople in the Central Business District area.
- Satisfied contract requirements, including the cleaning of bus shelters and toilets, litter collection and graffiti removal.

### **Sport and Recreation Wanganui**

- Undertook a 'Health Check' study.
- Completed a review of organisational needs, including local sports clubs etc.
- Initiated structural changes, allowing Sport and Recreation to develop programmes that target the recreation needs of differing age groups.
- Developed a Physical Activity Plan.
- Achieved Green Prescription programme targets for the 2005/06 year.

### **Wanganui Police**

- Provided ongoing representation on community groups with an emphasis on crime reduction and safety outcomes, including the Safer Communities Advisory Group, Youth Access to Alcohol and Make It. Take It. project.
- Supported the development of the Wanganui District Council (Prohibition of Gang Insignia) Bill.
- Appointed a dedicated Rural Constable in February 2007 in response to rural community demand.
- Established a Police Kiosk in Maria Place. This opened on 7 December 2004.
- Implemented a number of nationwide strategies including a Burglary Strategy, Motor Vehicle Crime Strategy, Wilful Damage Strategy, Responsiveness to Maori Strategy, Youth Strategy, Violent Offending Strategy and Road Policing Strategy.
- Worked towards national police priority targets, including the implementation of preventative strategies and increased cultural responsiveness.

### **Whanganui District Health Board (DHB)**

- Provided ongoing services to GPs, laboratories, Māori health providers, rest homes and hospitals with the overarching aim of reducing health inequality across the District.
- The Public Health Unit's Health Protection Team monitored water quality results in conjunction with Council.
- Undertook health promotion to implement the Meningococcal immunisation programme and established a National Immunisation Register in 2005. This resulted in the provision of over 52,000 vaccinations, with vaccination rates in excess of the national average.
- Established 'Diabetes Services' through the Whanganui Regional Primary Health Organisation on 1 July 2005.
- Established an outreach primary care clinic in Castlecliff with funding received from Taumata Hauora Trust Primary Health Organisation.
- Provided programmes in an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles and exercise. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Te Kahui Whaiora – a child obesity programme for the Castlecliff community.
  - The Kohanga Reo Edible Garden Programme – initiated in 2005 and involving Kohanga from throughout the Wanganui region. The programme promotes gardening as an activity and supports resultant increases in vegetable consumption.
  - Walking the Talk – workplace based programme to establish policies and practices conducive to healthy food choices and increased physical activity. Information is currently disseminated to 130 workplaces.
- Commenced work on a Healthy Eating, Healthy Action Strategy to reduce obesity and the incidence of serious disease as a result of poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity. This strategy is a preventative one which recognises that 'delay in addressing

these issues at a primary prevention level will lead to further demand for health services in the future’.

- Updated the 2001 Health Needs Assessment in 2005.
- Launched a fluoridation campaign in 2005. This aligned with Council’s referendum in February 2006 and although this process reflected a lack of public support for fluoridation, the Whanganui DHB region continues to post the third highest rates in the country for child tooth decay.
- Implemented the Healthy Homes Project.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Health Intelligence Unit to support research and epidemiology.

## **What has the Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

#### Cemeteries

- Introduced general rates funding for cemeteries to recognise the public good that this service provides.

#### Library

- Maintained a proactive commitment to address literacy issues in the community, with a view to minimising negative impacts on both crime and health.

#### Minor transport

- Wanganui’s airport continued to enable the provision of a local air ambulance service. The airport also offers local, convenient and safe air passenger transport to Auckland and the South Island.
- The Durie Hill Elevator continued to act as a convenient and safe access point to both Durie Hill and the tourist lookout.

#### Parks and reserves

- Undertook remedial works at parks and reserves following the 2004 storm event, including repairs to the city marina.

#### Pensioner housing

- Sustained its programme of housing provision for elderly residents of limited means. In total, 275 units, 16 complexes and 32 granny flats were made available.

### ***Community support***

#### Community development

- Developed ‘Community Patrols’, a joint initiative between the Police and the Council whereby citizens patrolled the Central Business District at night in an effort to curb crime and supplement the work of Police patrols. Council contributed \$50,000 in 2005/06 to fund a patrol vehicle, a mobile phone and other safety equipment.
- Undertook projects and activities to reduce the impact of crime on the community and to enhance public safety, for example, through the provision of CCTV cameras. Graffiti cleanup services are also provided to improve the overall cleanliness and visual appearance of the city.
- Continued to implement its Community Safety Plan through the Wanganui Safer Community Advisory Group. The group includes representatives of the Council, New Zealand Police, Good Health Wanganui (Public Health Unit), Kohanga Reo, Māori Wardens, Youth Services, Whanganui River Māori Trust, Secondary School Principals’ Association, Intermediate School Principals’ Association, Ministry of Social Development, Department of Corrections, YMCA, Community Funding, Violence Intervention Network, Strengthening Families, Grey Power, Road Safety – Horizons, ACC and Te Puni Kokiri.
- A Graffiti Action Group has been formed in an effort to curb increases in graffiti damage citywide.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Wanganui Police.
- Undertook health initiatives in partnership with the Wanganui Wellbeing Group such as ‘Grab a Bite’ and ‘Fruit in Schools’.

### Emergency management

- Continued its efforts in public education, particularly with regard to preparing the community to effectively respond to an emergency situation. A rural fire service is also provided.
- Developed Civil Defence Emergency Management and Rural Fire Plans in close collaboration with the Joint Wanganui Rangitikei Emergency Management Committee (JEMC). Drafts of these documents were provided for public consultation and subsequently adopted by Council in October 2005. Membership of the JEMC includes Police, New Zealand Fire Service, Ambulance services, GasNet, Powerco, Telecom, Infrastructure Group, Whanganui DHB, Public Health, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Defence, Horizons Regional Council, Enviro Haz and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.
- Extended the rural 'Very High Frequency' radio telephone network to incorporate thirteen sites. An extensive 'telephone tree' warning system was developed for advance notice of the Crater Lake lahar for residents of the Whangaehu Valley. This network has potential application to other natural hazards, as well as community (crime) safety issues.
- Began work on a Flood Action Plan in partnership with Horizons Regional Council as a joint working document to guide emergency response and support floodplain management. This will clearly coordinate the efforts of both Councils, their respective teams and emergency operations centres and will be aligned to specific warning levels based on measured river activity at Pipiriki.

### Environmental policy

- Environmental policy actions further contributed to the achievement of safe and healthy community outcomes. Ongoing work in this area includes continued maintenance, updating and improvement to the District Plan to control the effects of land use and subdivision, environmental policy work, monitoring the State of the Environment, bylaw development, support for heritage initiatives, improving opportunities for recycling, environmental enhancement of the Whanganui River, urban design projects and community involvement.

### Regulatory services

- Enforced recent legislation requiring the microchipping of all newly registered dogs.
- Continued work in the following areas, dog control, building services, resource consent processing, food premise grading, nuisance control, liquor licensing, private stormwater separation enforcement and parking enforcement.
- Began a process of building consent authority accreditation as required by the Building Act (2004) in an effort to encourage greater consistency in regulatory building control, improve performance, raise standards and provide consumers with more confidence in the building control system.

### Waste minimisation

- Continued to enhance the overall cleanliness and visual appearance of the District by providing rural and peri-urban waste collection, as well as a limited hazardous waste disposal service. Additional services include recycling operations and waste minimisation education programmes.

## **Governance**

### Governance and democracy

- Following a Ministry of Health report released in 2005, 'Monitoring Health Inequality Through Neighbourhood Life Expectancy', the Council entered into discussions with the Whanganui District Health Board in an effort to understand why Wanganui fares so badly in terms of life expectancy. The Council is involved in a number of health promotion initiatives which attempt to reverse negative statistics, including the implementation of a Solar Protection Policy.
- Investigated the introduction of a gang bylaw following a spate of gang related activity. *(Note: public support for this issue was gauged through the Referendum process in April 2007, with 64.63% voting to pursue the introduction of a local bill to outlaw the wearing of gang insignia in public places).*

- The Wanganui Rural Community Board began an investigation into the impact of forestry harvesting on rural roads.
- A Child Health Taskforce was created to assist the Whanganui District Health Board to recruit and retain clinicians to deliver full secondary level child health and maternity services at Wanganui Hospital.

### ***Land transportation***

#### Footpaths and berms

- The footpaths renewal budget increased in 2005/06 from \$211,000 to \$321,000 and the footpath maintenance budget increased from \$155,000 to \$163,000. Renewals primarily targeted areas of concern to the most vulnerable pedestrians, e.g. schools, rest homes, social clubs etc. The increased maintenance budget allowed for faults to be dealt with expeditiously.
- Sought ongoing improvements to the transport network. Efforts included network integration, footpath maintenance, multipurpose footpath use, walkway lighting and seating and shelter facilities at bus stop locations. Healthy use of the walkway network is also encouraged through opportunities for exercise and recreation. Visual appearance is similarly achieved through ongoing maintenance work.

#### Roading

- Continued to provide high quality transport networks through the following service programmes:
  - Ensuring that 90% of sealed roads have a roughness below 180 NAASRA counts;
  - Operating a safe and efficient network;
  - Undertaking appropriate consultation;
  - Complying with the Resource Management Act; and
  - Liaising with relevant agencies.
- Repaired 250 rural road sites following storm damage in 2004.
- Reinstated access past a major drop out site on Papaiti Road to provide access to residential and farming properties.

### ***Water***

#### Stormwater

- Continued to meet environmental and public health standards.

#### Wastewater

- Continued to dispose of sewage and trade wastes in line with environmental and public health standards.
- Completed a Water and Sanitary Assessment. This was approved by Council for consultation on 27 June 2005, with the assessment adopted by Council on 12 December 2005. The assessment is contained in the 10-Year Plan 2006-2016.

#### Waterways and natural drainage

- Lodged a submission with Horizons Regional Council on the 'Matarawa Stream – Draft Scheme Review and Proposed New Rating System' in January 2006. Council supported this project and confirmed its contribution of \$164,500 + GST.
- Continued to manage the District's natural water systems to reduce public health and flooding risks.

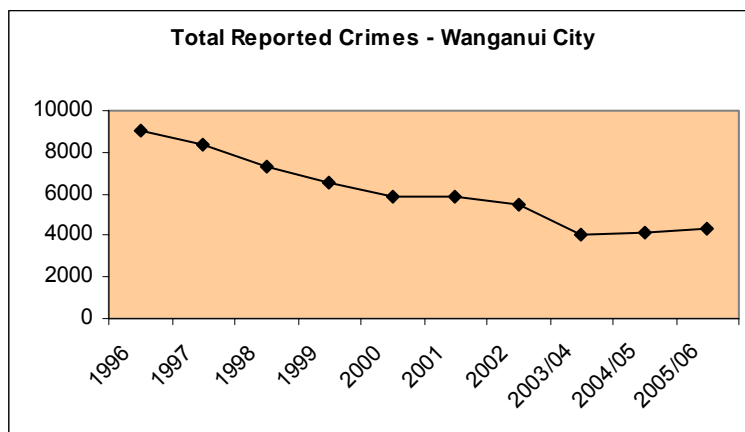
#### Water supply

- Continued to provide a safe and reliable water supply as well as adequate stock to meet fire fighting capacity.

## A safe and healthy community?

### Crime levels

Police statistics reveal that levels of crime in the District trended downwards to a low in 2003/04 of 4,057. Levels rose slightly in 2004/05 and again in 2005/06 with the total crime levels resting at 4,127 and 4,373 respectively. Increases have occurred in all areas of criminal activity including violence, unlawful taking/conversion of vehicles and burglaries.



Source: Wanganui Central Police Station

### Perceptions of safety

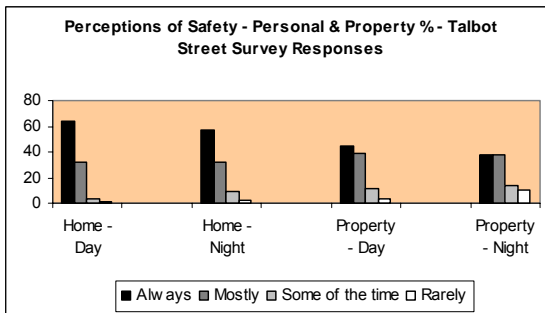
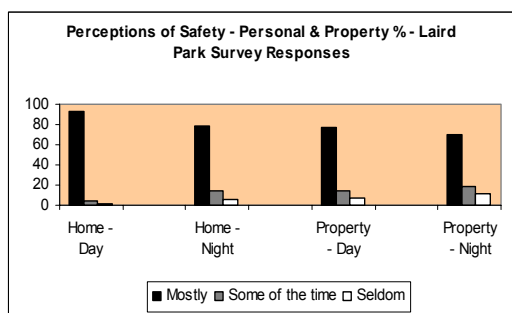
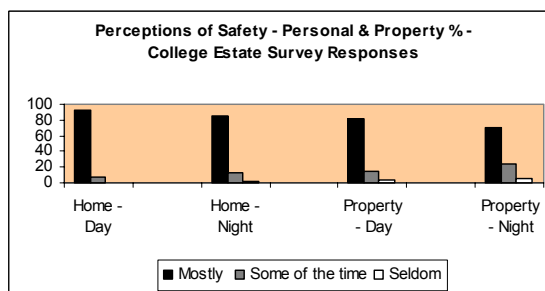
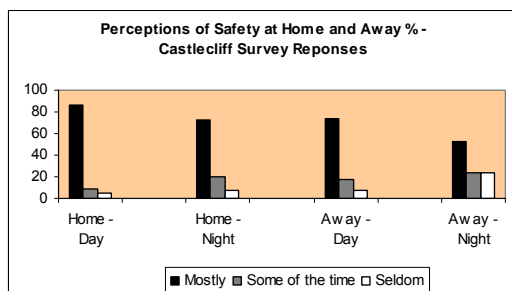
The majority of respondents to the 2006 Community Outcomes survey indicate that they believe Wanganui to be a safe city. However, where safety was identified as a concern this was most often articulated in relation to non-specific crime levels and gang related activity. Perceptions of safety were also measured in 2003 as part of the Council's neighbourhood survey process in College Estate, Castlecliff, Talbot Street and Laird Park. These results revealed that most residents considered themselves to be safe 'most of the time' while at home both during the day and at night. While property was also perceived to be safe, responses indicate lower levels of confidence in this respect. An update on residents' safety will be available following the completion of the Community Views Survey in May 2007.

"Do you think Wanganui is a safe city?"

| Response     | Number of responses | Percentage |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| Yes          | 286                 | 65         |
| No           | 103                 | 23.4       |
| Not sure     | 51                  | 11.6       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>440</b>          | <b>100</b> |



Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006



Source: Council neighbourhood surveys 2000

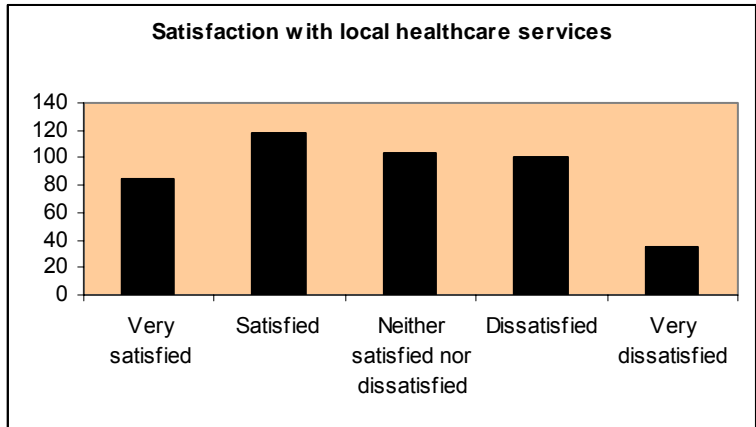
The business community's perception of policing and security issues in the CBD was addressed by a Mayoral survey in January 2007. 45% of respondents to this survey believed current CCTV arrangements to be inadequate, while 80% claimed a lack of visible police presence. Negative impacts on business security as a result of this situation were identified by 50% of dissatisfied respondents.

### Perceptions of healthcare services

Levels of dissatisfaction with the provision of local healthcare services are relatively high, with 30% of respondents indicating some measure of discontent. This assessment is predominantly attributed to a general lack of trained medical staff in Wanganui and the resultant flow-on effects of this situation.

"How satisfied are you with Wanganui's provision of local healthcare services?"

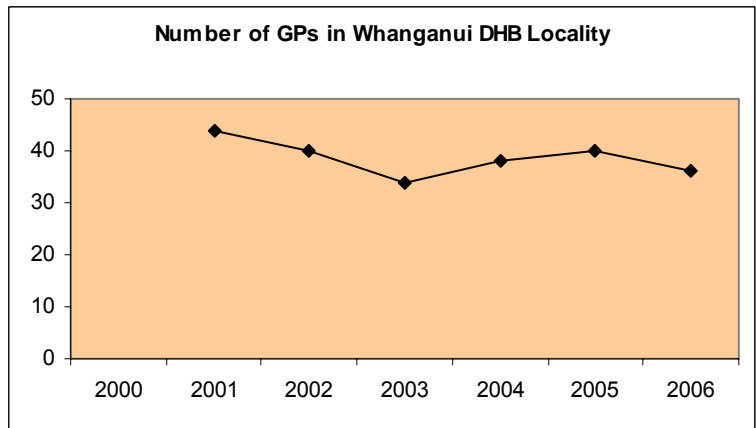
| Response                           | Number of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied                     | 84                  | 19.1       |
| Satisfied                          | 118                 | 26.8       |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 103                 | 23.4       |
| Dissatisfied                       | 100                 | 22.7       |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 35                  | 8          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>440</b>          | <b>100</b> |



Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

**Number of general practitioners**

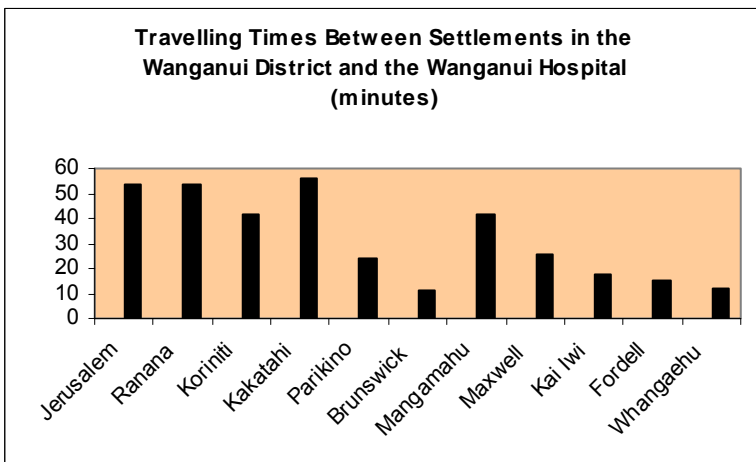
A decline in the number of GPs supports the above assessment, however, it should be noted that in 2006 an additional two GPs were resident in comparison to figures for 2003.



Source: Wanganui Primary Health Organisations

**Access to public hospital**

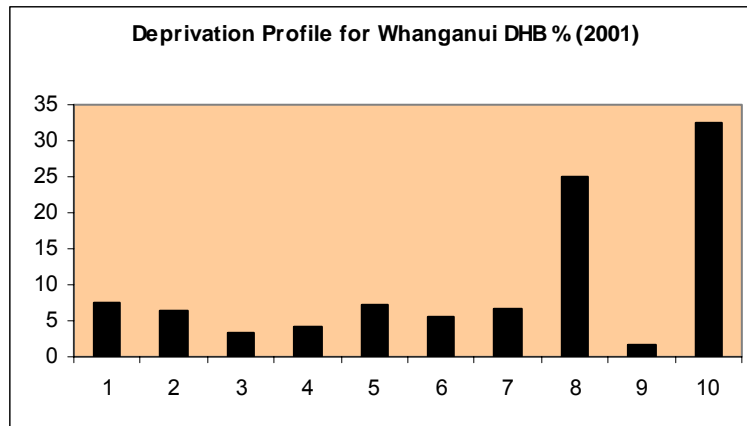
Travelling times were not raised as a significant issue during the 2006 Community Outcomes survey. As the following graph demonstrates, there are only five settlements outside a thirty minute radius of Wanganui Hospital, Jerusalem, Ranana, Kakatahi, Koriniti and Mangamahu. This equates to approximately 1,000 affected residents.



Source: Whanganui District Health Board

### Health status

Wanganui's health issues are highlighted by life expectancy statistics. These indicate that while the mean national life expectancy during 1999-2003 was 78.7 years, in the Wanganui District Health Board District this was 76.5 years. The index of deprivation paints a related picture of health deficit. Based on household income, car and telephone access, household crowding, employment, home ownership status and people <60 in a single parent family, this index categorises communities from decile 1, least deprived, to decile 10, most deprived. The most recent rating of the Wanganui District Health Board suggests that 59% of the population live in deprivation deciles 8 to 10.

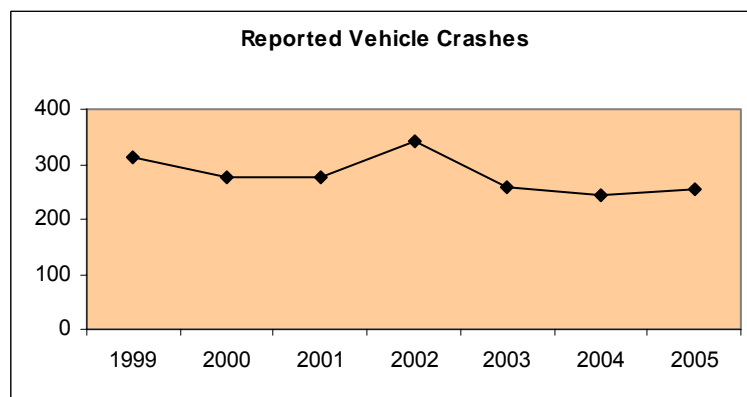


Source: Wanganui DHB and Statistics NZ

Additional community healthcare providers have continued to offer services geared towards the improvement of general health outcomes. Donations from funding bodies continue to be critical to this work, with Powerco Wanganui Trust contributing funding to organisations such as the Wanganui Air Ambulance Trust, Hospice Wanganui and Family Support Services.

### Road safety

Road vehicle crashes have trended downwards in recent years, despite a spike in 2002. In 2005 there were 256 crashes, a slight increase (4.5%) on 2004 with 244 crashes. However, instances of road death, serious casualty, serious injury and non-injury crashes have reduced. In particular, the road traffic death rate has consistently decreased from 20.8 in 2003, to 11.5 in 2004 and 9.2 in 2005. Minor road safety issues, such as 'minor casualties' and 'minor injury crashes', have recorded slight increases.

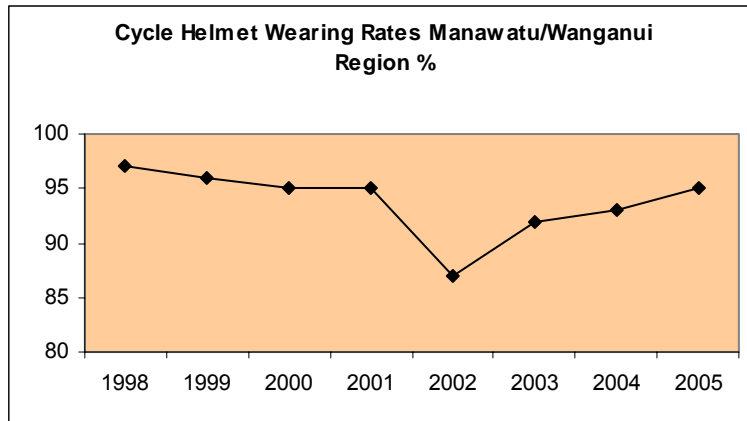


Source: OPUS

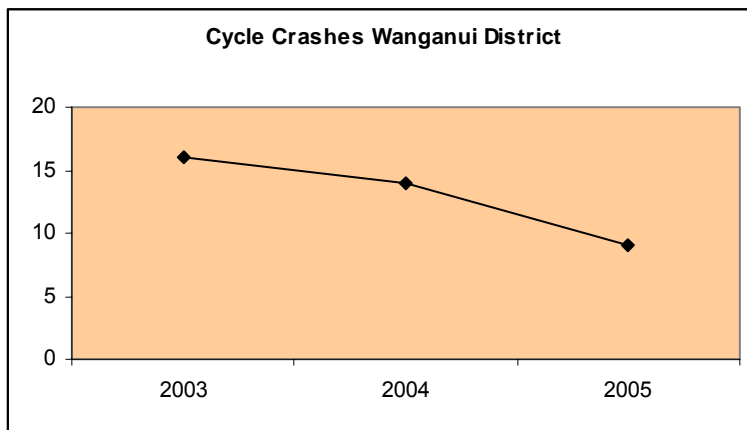
### Cycle safety

Although the most recent cycle safety statistics are not yet available, it can be seen that cycle helmet wearing rates for our region are steadily increasing following a period of low

compliance in 2002. Furthermore, pedal cyclist crashes are continuing to decline from a high of 16 in 2003<sup>1</sup>.



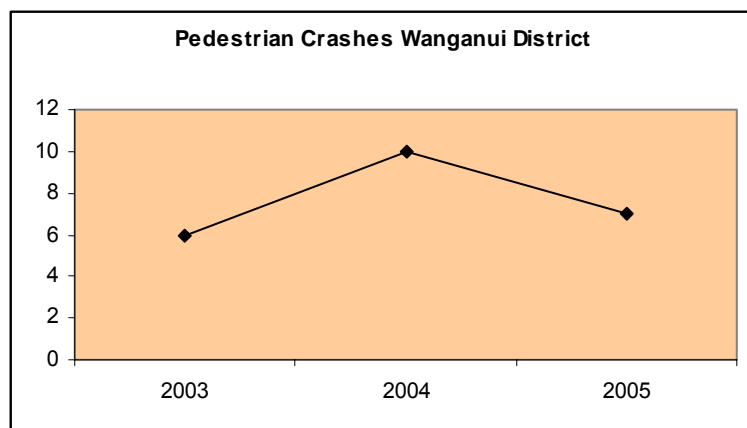
Source: Ministry of Transport



Source: Land Transport NZ

### Pedestrian safety

The most recent pedestrian safety statistics are similarly indicative of positive shifts with a decrease in crashes involving pedestrians from 10 in 2004 to 7 in 2005. However, this still represents a higher total than that for 2003, where there were 6 pedestrian casualties<sup>2</sup>.



Source: Land Transport NZ

<sup>1</sup> Note: Figures are provided by the Ministry of Transport in line with police traffic crash reports. As a result, pedal cyclist crash statistics only include those incidents where a police officer has been in attendance.

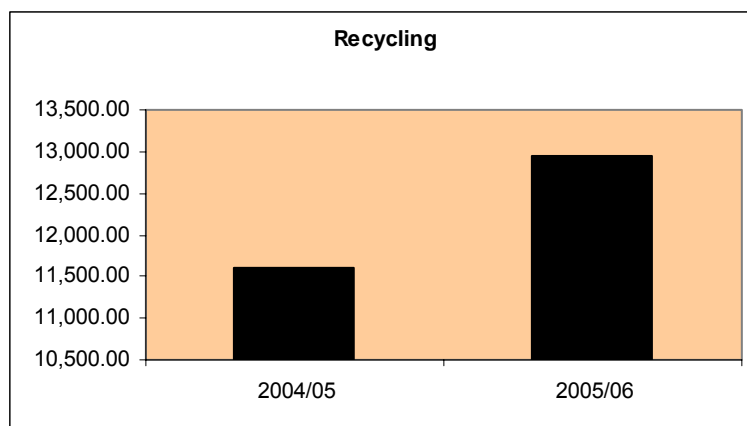
<sup>2</sup> Note: Figures are provided by the Ministry of Transport in line with police traffic crash reports. As a result, pedestrian crash statistics only include those incidents where a police officer has been in attendance.

### Visual quality

While there is no current illustrative graph of graffiti incidents, Council is increasing efforts in this area through the establishment of a Graffiti Action Group which incorporates representatives from the Police and Mainstreet Wanganui. These efforts will furnish more complete graffiti statistics for future reporting needs.

### Recycling

Volumes of recycled material collected by the Recycling Centre have increased in the 12 months from May 2005 to May 2006, with a total of 12,945.5 cubic metres. These volumes appear likely to continue with most recent figures indicating an increase of 385.5 cubic metres when compared to the monthly total for January 2006.



Source: Wanganui District Council

### Conclusion

Wanganui is generally perceived to be a safe and healthy community with a majority of residents indicating a lack of safety concerns. Health issues generate more discussion, particularly with regard to a shortage in qualified healthcare professionals and general concerns with the management and operation of Wanganui Hospital. These issues are somewhat reflected in Wanganui's decline in practicing GPs. Ongoing work to ensure the health and safety of the Wanganui community is similarly necessitated by increases in reported crime.

### A safe and healthy community into the future

While local residents may not consider themselves to be individually affected by poor health and threatened safety, it is clear that the maintenance of positive personal wellbeing is an important community concern. Furthermore, while statistical evidence appears to indicate less than ideal social situations for the fostering of a safe and healthy District, it will need to remain a principal priority.

#### **Long-term community**

- Community road safety programmes will be undertaken by Horizons Regional Council. Bus passenger services will continue to be provided.
- Mainstreet Wanganui will continue to fulfill its contractual obligations, particularly with regard to the visual maintenance of the Central Business District. Bylaw enforcement will also continue as necessary.
- Work will be undertaken by Sport and Recreation Wanganui to encourage participation in the Green Prescription programme.
- The Police will continue to work towards improved crime and safety outcomes in accordance with the New Zealand Police Statement of Intent. In the 2007/08 year these priorities will include a focus on community reassurance, policing with confidence and organisational development.
- Ongoing work by the Whanganui DHB will include the provision of services to key health partners, monitoring of water quality, updates as required to the National Immunisation Register, operation of 'Diabetes Services', operation of the Castlecliff

primary care clinic, ongoing implementation of the Healthy Homes Project and health programme delivery to effect positive change in diet, exercise and lifestyle. The DHB will also update the latest Health Needs Assessment during the 2007/08 year.

#### **Long-term Council**

- Council will continue its involvement in local health initiatives, including support for projects through the Wanganui Wellbeing Group.
- Additional closed circuit television cameras will be installed at Victoria Avenue and Trafalgar Square between 2006 and 2008.
- An emergency power generator is to be installed at the Council's municipal building.
- Ongoing footpath renewals will be undertaken, particularly in areas of worst defect and high use by vulnerable pedestrians.
- The airport terminal will be upgraded.
- There will be an investigation into the establishment of a commercial aviation precinct around the airport.
- The Whanganui River Road seal extension is to be undertaken. This will enhance local access and safety and will also provide a significant boost to tourism potential.
- New discretionary roading works will be undertaken.
- Council will continue its process of stormwater and wastewater separation.
- Construction of the new wastewater treatment plant will be completed.
- Continued support for waste minimisation will be demonstrated, principally through recycling initiatives and in a review of Council's waste policy. Community support for a kerbside recycling service will be investigated via a public Referendum in April 2007. *(Note: 66.08% of respondents to this Referendum supported the introduction of kerbside recycling).*
- The Matarawa Stream catchment area will be protected from a 50 year flood event, while the protection of Anzac Parade, Moutoa Quay and the Heads Road industrial area will be similarly protected by the construction of stopbanks.
- An increased water rate will be levied to account for water softening and a new water supply. *(Note: public support for this issue was gauged through the Referendum process in April 2007, with 71.17% voting in support of water softening).*
- Ongoing safety initiatives will continue to be implemented through Council's involvement in the Wanganui Safer Community Advisory Group.
- Council will receive accreditation as a building consent authority as required by the Building Act (2004) from 30 November 2007 onwards.

# Recognition as a great place to live and visit



The development of Wanganui as a leading destination and a dynamic centre is a critical community concern. Currently almost 95% of residents would personally recommend Wanganui as a place to live. This swelling of positive community pride contributes to Wanganui's efforts at promoting itself both locally and externally and indicates that Wanganui is an attractive option for existing and potential residents.

## Importance of recognising Wanganui as a great place to live and visit

| Indicator                                     | Relevance  |
|---|--|
| Perceptions of Wanganui's image               | Residents' perceptions are a critical indicator of the quality of life that Wanganui affords, while also providing a measure of community satisfaction. How people feel about their surroundings has a significant impact on their wellbeing, and their District.  |
| Number of events                              | Social, leisure and recreational activities are crucial components of a healthy and balanced lifestyle. The ability to participate in, or attend, community events can play an important role in social wellbeing by enabling people to derive enjoyment, entertainment or personal development from their free time.                                  |
| Participation in arts and cultural activities | Participation in arts and cultural activities can enhance social wellbeing through the encouragement of personal growth, self-expression and increased learning opportunities. Support for these activities will foster a vibrant community ethos and can encourage increased recreational options in the District.                                    |
| Number of heritage buildings/sites            | Wanganui's historic heritage is rich and thriving. It provides a map of where we have been and who we are, and encompasses Māori settlements to architecturally renowned inner-city buildings. These sites are critical to our District, representing an important visual and historic presence that significantly contributes to our unique identity. |
| Heritage assistance given by Council          | Council recognises the value and importance of protecting and promoting Wanganui's   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | cultural heritage. Heritage assistance will safeguard our historical sites for future generations to enjoy and contributes to Wanganui's visual appeal. |
|--|---|

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT)***

- Completed restoration of the Richard Taylor Memorial at Heads Road.
- Enjoyed increased membership of the 'Friends of Heads Road' group, with a working bee and open day staged in October 2006.
- Submitted a proposed registration of Heads Road Cemetery as an historic site to NZHPT in September 2006.
- Began work on a database of building inventories.

### ***Whanganui Arts, Culture and Heritage Development Trust (WACHDT)***

- Developed a regional arts database.
- Encouraged Māori arts through a Māori arts and design trust.
- Began work on the development of Matariki as a cultural festival.
- Participated as a committee member and administrator of Creative Communities funding.
- Submitted early input into the Wanganui Arts Policy through involvement in the arts questionnaire.
- Held monthly arts network meetings.

### ***Te Puni Kokiri***

- Provided funding to a Māori Art Exhibition.

### ***Mainstreet Wanganui***

- Erected 168 flags around the city to celebrate Wanganui identity and promote events.
- Produced a 'Fun Map' of the region and a number of promotional brochures.
- Actively promoted and participated in Heritage Weekend and the Market Day Muster.
- Coordinated heritage painting in the Central Business District.
- Submitted on the Council's Earthquake Prone Building Policy.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

- Began integration of the cultural precinct housed at Queen's Park. This has seen the establishment of an over-arching Community and Culture Manager.

### **Library**

- Continued its work as a lead agency within the city's cultural precinct. This has seen the library maintain service standards that either match or exceed national benchmarks.

### **Regional Museum**

- Continued to promote individual identity and social inclusion as well as a key visitor attraction for promotion of the region.

### **Parks and reserves**

- Undertook a Castlecliff urban landscape project. This has included:
  - Sand clearance around Duncan Pavilion, car park and beach for the Christmas holiday season, with work ongoing to clear windblown sand as required.
  - An upgrade of the Karaka Street beacon, including painting and the replacement of rotten timbers.
  - Installation of two new gas barbeques on the Castlecliff Domain by the play area.

- Painting of lines on the Castlecliff Domain basketball court.
- Improvements to the North Mole to provide a pedestrian walkway and easy access for fishermen and swimmers to the river.
- Painting and landscaping of the entrance to the Castlecliff United Community Trust buildings.
- Tree planting along Cornfoot and Tregenna Streets.

### ***Community support***

#### Community development

- Actively promoted Wanganui through continued involvement in the Sister City programme.
- Initiated a number of youth projects and worked to support the development of activities and facilities for younger residents.

#### Economic development – Wanganui Inc

- Worked to promote events both locally and nationally, particularly through its ‘trilogy’ format. Staged events include the Boxing Day Concert, Wanganui Mayoral Mile, Tower 2 Tower running race and Whanganui Artists Open Studios.
- Launched a ‘Come to Wanganui’ campaign on 2 March 2006. This aimed to encourage local residents to assume the role of Wanganui ambassadors through distribution of the ‘Come to Wanganui’ book.
- Launched a revitalised Wanganui branding campaign on 30 November 2006.

#### Environmental policy

- Protected heritage values through provisions in the District Plan.
- Conducted an in-depth review of the building stock of the CBD (undertaken by Wendy Pettigrew on behalf of the Council). This is the basis for consultation on the possible protection of additional buildings via the District Plan heritage listing.

#### Waste minimisation

- Established a Litter Patrol at the end of 2005. In the first two weeks of operation the Patrol picked up more than 5 tonnes of litter and continues to collect between 4 and 5 tonnes per month. Special attention is paid to local litter hotspots and Patrol members report that they are thanked on an almost daily basis by residents grateful for the effort they are making to ensure Wanganui remains a clean place to live in.
- Community support for a kerbside recycling service will be investigated via the Referendum process in April 2007. (*Note: 66.08% of respondents to this Referendum supported the introduction of kerbside recycling.*)

### ***Governance***

#### Governance and democracy

- Instituted a specialist Heritage Committee to address a wide range of heritage issues.

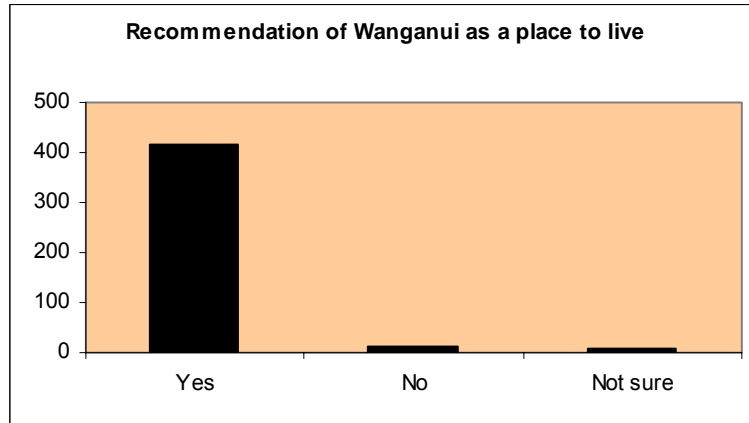
## **Recognition as a great place to live and visit?**

### **Perceptions of Wanganui’s image**

The following survey results lend support to the notion that Wanganui is a great city, housing equally satisfied residents. With almost 95% of surveyed participants indicating personal support for their hometown, positive promotion of this District is aided and residents are able to benefit from general feelings of goodwill and community spirit.

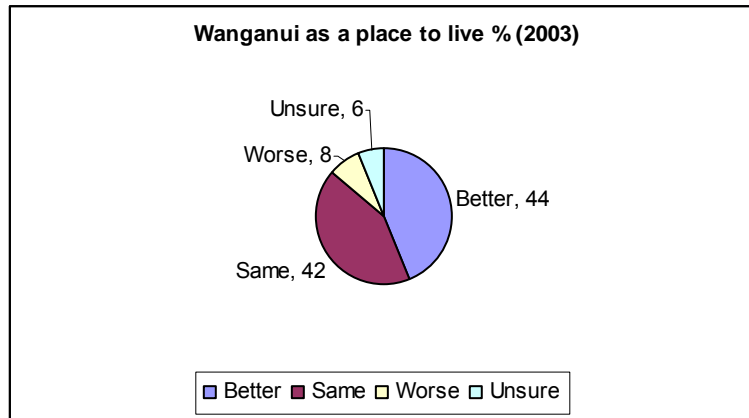
“Given your overall impression of Wanganui, would you personally recommend Wanganui as a place to live?”

| <b>Response</b> | <b>Number of responses</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Yes</b>      | <b>417</b>                 | <b>94.8</b>       |
| <b>No</b>       | <b>13</b>                  | <b>2.9</b>        |
| <b>Not sure</b> | <b>10</b>                  | <b>2.3</b>        |
|                 |                            |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>440</b>                 | <b>100</b>        |



Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

The 2003 Community Views Survey similarly examined Wanganui's popularity as a place to live, comparing the state of the city to the previous three year period. The following results were recorded. Changes in quality of life are to be measured again in the 2007 Community Views Survey due for completion in May.



Source: Community Views survey 2003

### Number of events

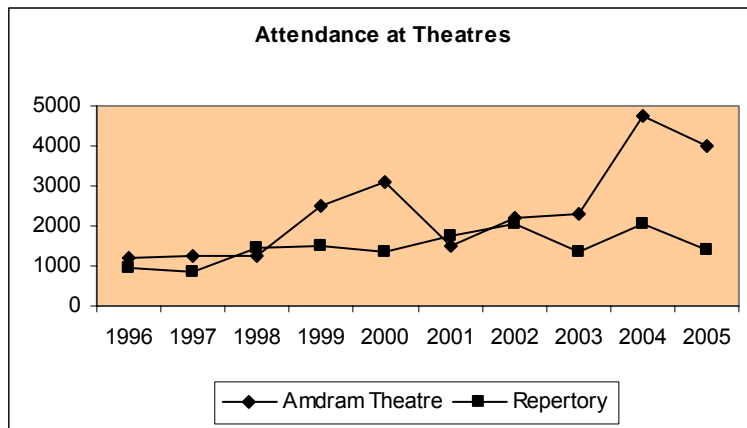
A significant factor in resident satisfaction is the provision of plenty and varied opportunities for social, leisure and recreational activity. Improvements to Wanganui's events calendar continue through the Make It. Take It. project and Council's active focus on premier festivals, sports meets and cultural occasions. Wanganui also has a multitude of facilities and tourism products with wide ranging appeal to both residents and visitors; these include, but are not limited to, the following listings captured by Wanganui Inc's tourism database:

- Accommodation options 54
- Adventure/outdoors 6
- Air 2
- Farm/rural 9
- Fishing/water sports 2
- Gardens/beaches 22
- Māori cultural 2
- River activities 14
- Tour operators 5

### Participation in arts and cultural activities

Although attendance levels at Wanganui's Amdram and Repertory Theatres dropped in 2005, this followed a period of heavy patronage in 2004. As previously noted, Wanganui provides a number of additional recreational options, including events staged by Wanganui Inc and Council's youth project, Make It. Take It. More information on the arts and cultural practices of

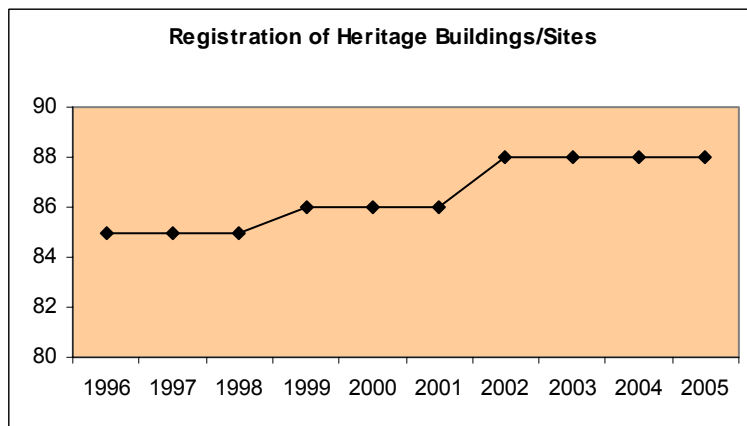
Wanganui residents will be available through the 2007 Community Views Survey due for release shortly.



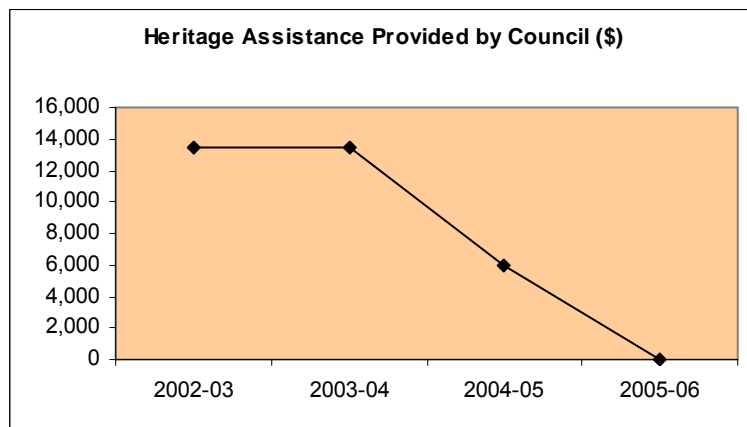
Source: Amdram and Repertory theatres

### Number of heritage buildings/sites and heritage assistance given by Council

An attractive environment is also critical in establishing positive community perceptions. Wanganui has a rich cultural heritage that is actively protected. Although there were no claims to the Council's Heritage Building Assistance Fund in 2005/06, this fund will continue to aid heritage building owners to meet the cost of assessment and compliance issues. Payments are generally \$1,500 per claimant and totalled \$13,500 in 2002/03 and 2003/04 and \$6,000 in 2004/05. While the number of NZHPT registered buildings had been increasing, these figures have remained steady at 88 since 2002.



Source: NZ Historic Places Trust



Source: Wanganui District Council

## **Conclusion**

It is difficult to dispute the overwhelming instance of local pride as demonstrated by the 2006 Community Outcomes survey. With almost 95% of respondents indicating that they would personally recommend Wanganui as a place to live, our image, attractions and distinctive character are clearly matching public outcome goals.

## **Recognition as a great place to live and visit into the future**

Ongoing promotion of Wanganui as a great centre to live and visit will continue. It is hoped that perceptions of Wanganui's image will remain positive and in line with previous trends, principally demonstrated through the Community Views Survey process, that suggest Wanganui's image is indeed improving.

### ***Long-term community***

- NZHPT will update historic Wanganui sites on its website. 'Friends of Heads Road' will continue efforts at the cemetery, including greater input into grave restoration. Ongoing work will also be undertaken to register the cemetery as an historic site. Further historic sites may also be registered as NZHPT resources allow. Interpretation of the Wanganui story will be undertaken in 2007 as NZHPT funding becomes available. Additional ongoing projects include the development of a database of building inventories, historical recognition of Virginia Lake, promotion of Heritage Weekend and contribution to Council's heritage strategy.
- WACHDT will explore the staging of arts oriented festivals in 2007/08. Further work will be undertaken with Council and other stakeholders to establish Matariki as a Wanganui cultural festival. Additional efforts with the Māori arts and design trust will seek the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage a bicultural working partnership. A free regional arts newsletter will be pursued and ongoing administration of Creative Communities funding will be undertaken with Council. Further work will also be witnessed in the hosting of monthly arts network meetings and participation in the development of the Wanganui Arts Policy.
- Mainstreet Wanganui will continue its provision of brochures, flags and other promotional material. Special rates will be provided to Mainstreet members to undertake heritage painting.

### ***Long-term Council***

- It is expected that Council's economic development activity will continue to promote local events and sustain efforts that develop an improved Wanganui image.
- Existing attractions will be developed and effectively promoted, for example through the 'trilogy' format.
- Further integration of the cultural precinct will be sought, principally through the 'Heart of Wanganui' project.
- Responsive youth services will market Wanganui to young people, principally through the Make It. Take It. project and Youth Committee. This aligns with the mission statement of the Youth Committee's Youth Strategy – 'to make Wanganui a more youth friendly place'.
- Council would like i-SITE to move from its current location to a more publicly accessible spot.

# Development of amenities and recreational opportunities



Currently 82% of residents state that they are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with Wanganui's recreational areas and facilities. This indicates that Council is meeting its priority targets, including the development and positive management of youth friendly sites, parks, walkways, reserves, existing recreational and sports facilities, arts facilities, arts performances and events, the Central Business District and the coastal environment.

## Importance of developing amenities and recreational opportunities

| Indicator  | Relevance   |
|--|---|
| Community satisfaction with Council facilities     | Community perceptions of Council facilities act as an important indication of the usefulness and sustainability of current services. This measure recognises that poor access to services and infrastructure can impact on residents' health, their sense of safety and community wellbeing.  |
| Youth perceptions of Wanganui                      | It is important to have some insight into how young people feel about the quality of life in this District if we want to retain a young and vibrant population. This indicator provides a useful overview of positive and negative perceptions, as well as suggestions for change and affords young people an equal opportunity to vocalise their needs.  |
| Participation in sport and recreational activities | Cultural activities are an integral part of our lives and help to define who we are as New Zealanders. People participate in cultural activities for a wide variety of reasons: "for enjoyment and entertainment; for personal growth and development; as a means of expression; to learn new skills and to meet new people; and to pass on cultural traditions" (quoted from The Social Report). Participation in sport is an indicator of health and happiness. |

## What has the community achieved?

### **Conservation Department**

- Maintained access to Gordon Park and Whitiua Reserve.
- Implemented a school planting and weed control programme at Castlecliff Reserve.

- Maintained the Atene Skyline Walk.
- Continued management of Whanganui National Park.

#### ***Mainstreet Wanganui***

- Achieved increased use of Majestic Square, with 91 groups utilising this facility to June 2006.
- Distributed letters to all schools in the region in an effort to promote use of the Majestic Square performance stage. Media coverage of events at this site has also been achieved.
- Continued to provide hanging baskets for the Wanganui In Bloom event.

#### ***Powerco Wanganui Trust***

- Distributed funds of \$1.307M to the community for projects such as:
  - The Splash Centre extension
  - The reroofing of Springvale Stadium (Wanganui Community Sports Centre)
  - A new railway engine at Kowhai Park (Lions Wanganui)
  - The riverfront development
  - Wet field hockey turf (Hockey Wanganui)
  - Cloak storage cabinets, collection, preservation and security (Whanganui Regional Museum)
  - Training lights at Spriggens Park (Wanganui Rugby Football Union)
  - All weather bowling green (Wanganui Bowling Club)
  - Wanganui District Performing Arts 2006 Festival
  - Completion of Castlecliff skatepark (Progress Castlecliff)

#### ***Sport and Recreation Wanganui***

- Implemented five school and five community sport and recreation programmes.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

Work is underway on the proposed Heart of Wanganui project. This will see an upgrade and expansion of facilities at Queens Park and will require an integrated, community approach. Five nationally recognised architects visited Wanganui in 2005 to scope the related buildings (library, museum, art gallery, War Memorial Hall and forecourt) and to suggest options for redevelopment. A working party was then established to consider these options. Community consultation has since been sought, with final decisions to be steered by a referendum process in October 2007.

### **Central Business District services**

- Upgraded the Orient toilets.
- Refurbished the St Hill Street male toilets.
- Continued management of building operations and maintenance.

### **Library**

- Continued ongoing maintenance and development of Library facilities to enable the provision of lending services, collections and education programmes.

### **Parks and reserves**

- Undertook grooming at Castlecliff Beach and sand clearance from the carpark.
- Upgraded the veteran steps.
- Constructed a new aviary exit at Virginia Lake.
- Refurbished the city/wharf marina.
- Provided general parks services, including passive park and reserve land, playgrounds, public conveniences and streetscape beautification. This service has particularly ensured that assets are well maintained, New Zealand Standards are adhered to and community needs are met.

- Provided additional 'premier parks' with a focus on quality facilities and amenity value. Support from external organisations has included \$100,000 from Powerco Wanganui Trust to Lions Wanganui for the purchase of a new railway engine for the Tot Town Railway at Kowhai Park.

#### Regional Museum

- Continued to develop and promote a seven day a week service, with a particular focus on lowering barriers to participation by local people.

#### Royal Wanganui Opera House

- Continued to provide an historic, community venue for multiple purposes, including a range of social, cultural, recreational and educational uses.

#### Sarjeant Gallery

- Continued further development of the gallery and its collections. This included the provision of a balanced programme of at least 15 exhibitions per annum as well as additional public talks and forums.

#### Sports grounds

- Continued development and positive management of recreational and sports facilities. This service is primarily concerned with meeting community need, beautifying the District, ensuring cost effectiveness and satisfying maintenance targets. Cooks Gardens is similarly provided.

#### Swimming pools

- Began construction of the Splash Centre extension in late 2006. This project was the most popular of a list of 14 optional projects in Referendum '05 and is due for completion in late 2007.
- Continued to provide facilities for aquatic recreation, amenity value and swimming instruction.

#### War Memorial Hall

- Continued to provide a community venue for multiple purposes, including a range of social, cultural, recreational and educational uses.

### ***Community support***

#### Community development

- Established a formal Youth Committee in March 2006. This group has assumed a youth advocacy role between Council and the wider youth community and has been responsible for a major Youth Week event as well as the development of a Youth Strategy and the investigation of a number of additional long-term projects.
- Received a funding grant of \$112,000 from the Ministry of Youth Development to establish the Make It. Take It. project. This was implemented in April 2006 and aims to provide young people with training, education, employment, work experience, work mentoring, social interaction and leadership opportunities in partnership with the Wanganui community.

#### Environmental policy

- Relocated the Economic Store (former DIC building) to the corner of Drews Avenue and Taupo Quay to house the Boon tram.
- Conducted an in-depth review of the building stock of the CBD (undertaken by Wendy Pettigrew on behalf of the Council). This is the basis for consultation on the possible protection of additional buildings via the District Plan heritage listing.

### ***Investments***

#### Property

- Continued management of Council-owned property to a standard that enhances Wanganui's amenities and recreational facilities.

**Land transportation**

**Footpaths and berms**

- The footpaths renewal budget increased in 2005/06 from \$211,000 to \$321,000 and the footpath maintenance budget increased from \$155,000 to \$163,000. Renewals primarily targeted areas of concern to the most vulnerable pedestrians, e.g. schools, rest homes, social clubs etc. The increased maintenance budget allowed for faults to be dealt with expeditiously.
- Sought ongoing improvements to the transport network. Efforts included network integration, footpath maintenance, multipurpose footpath use, walkway lighting and seating and shelter facilities at bus stop locations. Healthy use of the walkway network is also encouraged through opportunities for exercise and recreation. Visual appearance is similarly achieved through ongoing maintenance work.

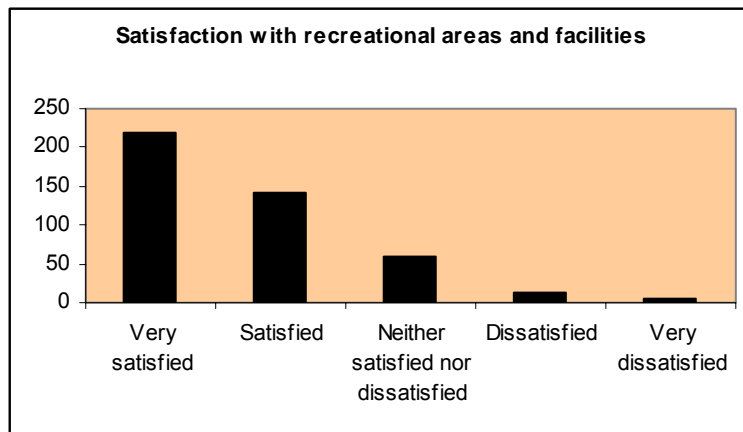
**Development of amenities and recreational opportunities?**

**Community satisfaction with Council facilities**

Wanganui residents are clearly satisfied with the development of amenities and recreational opportunities, with over 80% of survey participants demonstrating satisfaction with current standards. This approval rate indicates that Council is meeting its intention of providing suitable facilities to best meet the needs of our community.

“How satisfied are you with Wanganui’s recreational areas and facilities?”

| Response                           | Number of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied                     | 219                 | 49.8       |
| Satisfied                          | 141                 | 32.0       |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 60                  | 13.6       |
| Dissatisfied                       | 14                  | 3.2        |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 6                   | 1.4        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>440</b>          | <b>100</b> |



Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

A more specific measure of satisfaction with individual Council facilities will be achieved by the 2007 Community Views Survey. Previous results from the 2003 Community Views Survey suggest that dissatisfaction is most keenly felt in the following areas:

- Footpaths/berms 31%
- Recycling 25%
- Litter 23%

Furthermore, while only 5.7% of respondents to the 2006 Community Outcomes survey identified specific concerns with regard to recreational areas and facilities, the 2003 Community Views Survey suggested that 7% of respondents believed youth issues and a lack

of facilities and activities for youth to be critical issues facing Wanganui over the next few years.

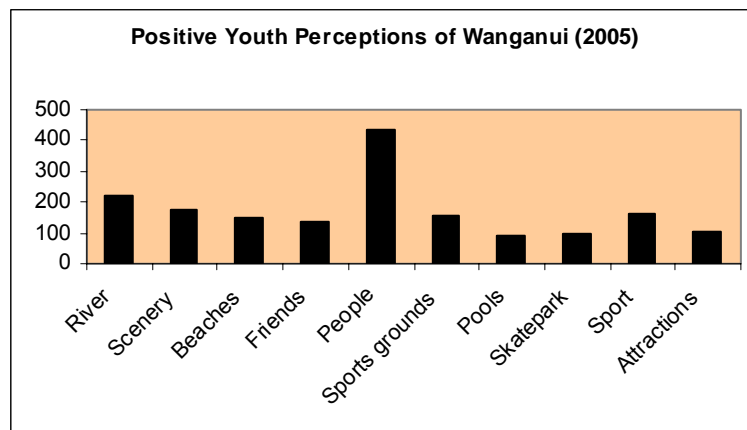
### Youth perceptions of Wanganui

Youth satisfaction was specifically measured by a youth survey of 2,000 Wanganui residents between the ages of 12 and 24 in late 2005. While this survey tends to suggest that young people are generally positive about Wanganui, suggested improvements include:

- An improvement in the number and quality of retail outlets (582 responses)
- More activities (330 responses)
- More concerts and music events (179 responses)
- More entertainment (154 responses)
- More places for young people to go (138 responses)

However, satisfaction was particularly demonstrated in the following areas:

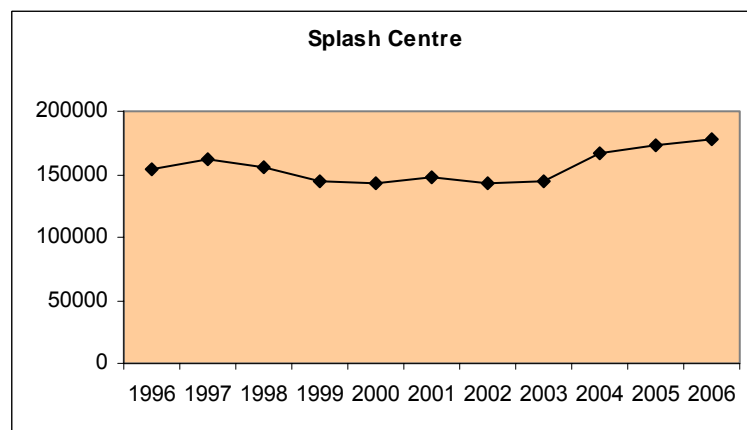
- Wanganui people (434 responses)
- Whanganui River (244 responses)
- Wanganui scenery (177 responses)
- General satisfaction with sport opportunities (162 responses)
- Sport facilities (153 responses)



Source: Whanganui Youth Collected Youth Survey 2005

### Participation in sport and recreational activities

Active use of Wanganui's recreational facilities can be demonstrated by the continued growth in users of the Splash Centre. In 2006, swimmers at this pool totaled 177,338 representing an increase of over 5,000 from the previous year. However, it should be noted that these gains have coincided with an influx of school users following the closure of a number of school pools citywide. Developments at this centre are likely to encourage greater and more varied use into the future.



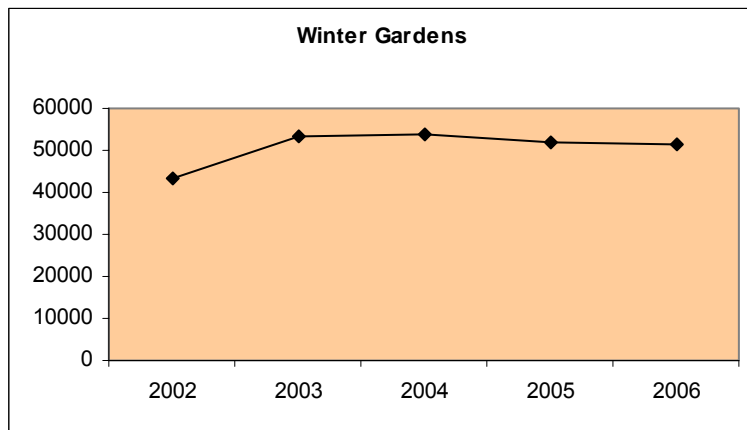
Source: Wanganui District Council

The following trends are indicative of the nature and frequency of sport participation within Wanganui:

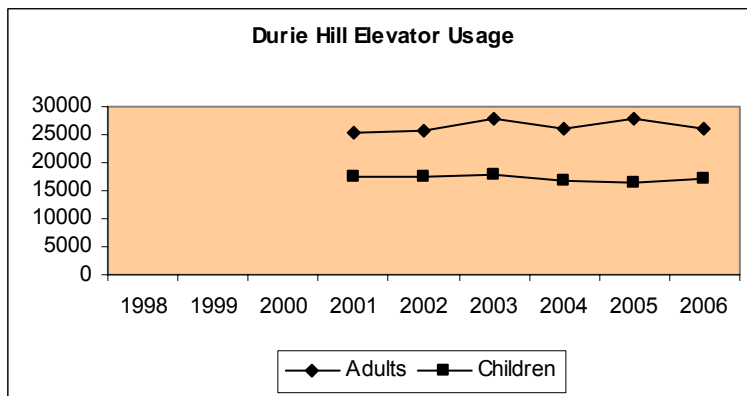
- Bowls, cricket, netball, soccer, hockey and touch show some decrease in the number of people actively involved.
- Golf figures have remained relatively static.
- Tennis, Kiwi Seniors and club rugby have enjoyed increased popularity.

Early investigations into the development of a sports facilities strategy appear to confirm continued declines in sports club membership.

User numbers are also recorded at the Winter Gardens and Durie Hill elevator. In 2006 visitor numbers at both sites were slightly down on the previous year, however young users of the elevator increased by nearly 600.

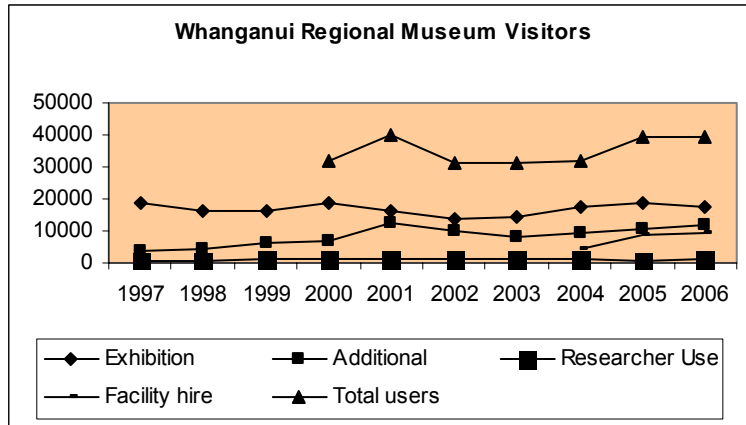


Source: Wanganui District Council

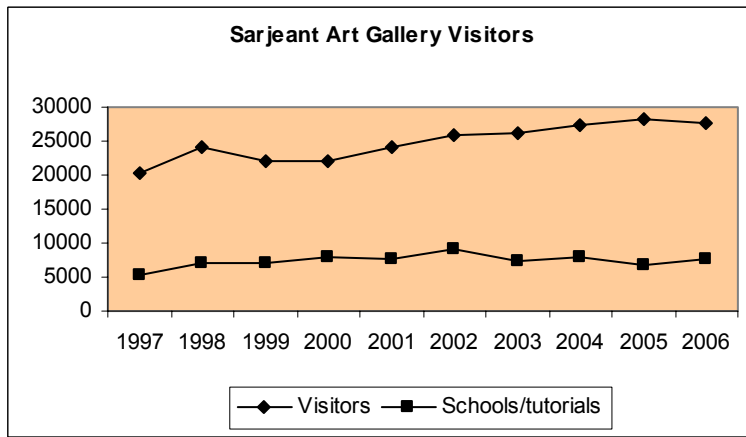


Source: Wanganui District Council

Cultural attractions have received mixed patronage. While attendance at the Royal Wanganui Opera House tends to remain relatively static, total visitor numbers at the Regional Museum have been increasing since 2003. Similarly, although the total number of visitors to the Sarjeant Gallery had dropped as at December 2006, attendance through school visits, tutorials and other events had increased by 964.

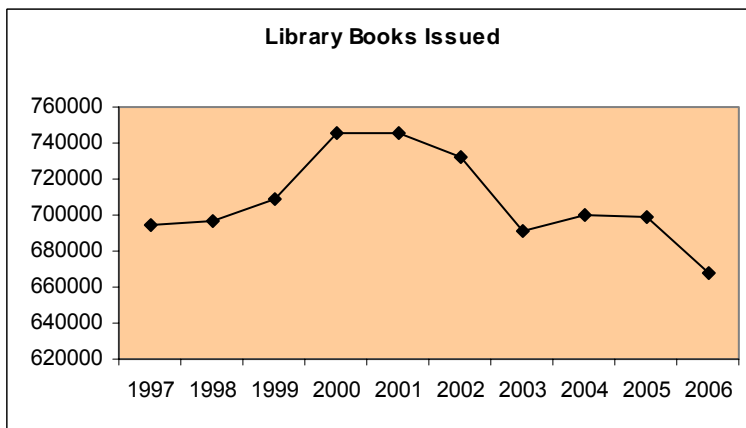


Source: Whanganui Regional Museum



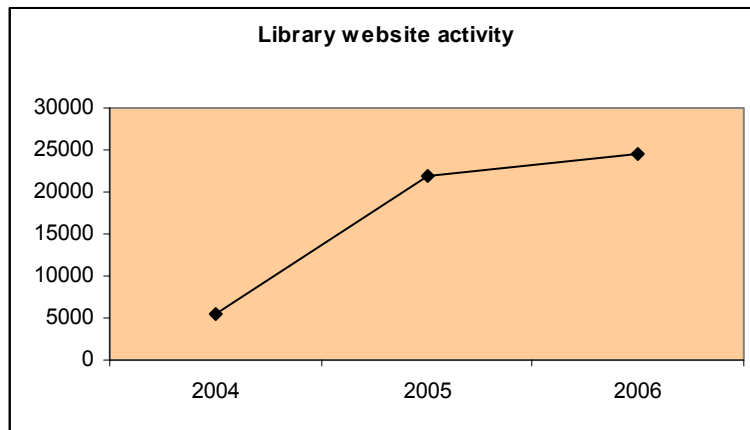
Source: Sarjeant Gallery

The number of library books issued at the Wanganui District Library has trended downwards since 2000 from 745,047 per annum to 667,896 per annum in 2006. This resulted in a percentage decrease of 4.4% between 2005 and 2006.



Source: Wanganui District Library

However, gains in website activity have coincided with this decline and demonstrate shifting trends in digital library practice. It should be noted that website services were implemented in March 2004.



Source: Wanganui District Library

## Conclusion

An overview of community satisfaction with current services provides active opportunities for ongoing development and refinement. While the 2007 Community Views Survey is not yet available it is clear from existing survey results that the majority of residents are satisfied with recreational and amenity opportunities (over 80%). Ongoing promotion of Wanganui's existing facilities will continue in conjunction with redevelopment as appropriate. Financial support from external funders will continue to be critical to this process, and has been particularly demonstrated by the generous support of Powerco Wanganui Trust and the Whanganui Community Foundation.

## Development of amenities and recreational opportunities into the future

Further development of local amenities and recreational facilities is planned and will contribute to positive perceptions of Wanganui's infrastructure into the future. Projects include the completion of the Splash Centre extension, refurbishment of play equipment at Kowhai Park and improved sports facilities.

### *Long-term community*

- Mainstreet Wanganui will continue its provision of hanging baskets for the Wanganui In Bloom event.
- Sport and Recreation Wanganui will continue to develop support systems for clubs and associations, including the implementation of appropriate strategies.

### *Long-term Council*

- The Heart of Wanganui project will be progressed, with the 'Heart of Wanganui' working party continuing investigations into the long-term accommodation needs of the cultural precinct.
- Negotiations will continue with users regarding the divestment of community buildings and rural halls.
- Sand clearance at Castlecliff Beach will continue as necessary.
- Development of the Walkways project will continue.
- A new link road at Bason Botanic Gardens will be developed.
- Toilets and play equipment will be upgraded at Kowhai Park. Additional playgrounds will also be developed throughout the city.
- The Gateway project will work to beautify the city's entrances.
- An investigation into the reroofing of the velodrome for the purpose of developing an International Events Centre will be undertaken.
- Cooks Gardens track and velodrome replacements will be considered.
- The Splash Centre extension will be completed. Council will endeavour to keep the Wanganui East pool open until this time.
- Proposed property asset sales will support new capital projects and reduce debt.

- Ongoing building maintenance and management work will continue in the Central Business District.
- Cultural, sporting and recreational facilities will continue to be provided.

# Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River



The Whanganui River is central to our District. It is the second largest river in the North Island, the longest navigable waterway in the country and covers 290 kilometres from the heights of Mt Tongariro to Wanganui's coast with the Tasman Sea. It provides a number of recreational opportunities and has 239 listed rapids. Community satisfaction with the river is mixed with 49% generally content with the river's quality and 31% 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'.

## Importance of developing the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River

| Indicator                    | Relevance  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Community perception         | With the central position of the river to our landscape and cultural identity, community perception of the upkeep of the Whanganui River and its immediate surrounds provides a useful insight into the appropriateness of current measures to protect and enhance a valuable natural asset. |
| Length of riverbank walkways | Access to the riverbank is also important. The provision of riverbank walkways aims to increase outdoor recreational opportunities for physical fitness and simultaneous enjoyment of our river. Increases in the length of walkways signal greater access to this area.                     |
| River water quality          | Promotion of the Whanganui River should highlight its recreational potential to local residents and tourists. Measurement of the Whanganui River's water quality through the presence of enterococci bacteria provides an indication of its safety for these users.                          |
| Access to the river          | Access to the Whanganui River is identified as an important community concern. This is managed by silt and debris removal at significant points of entry and enables recreational boat users, as well as coastguard and rescue services, to make use of the river as and when required.      |
| River biodiversity           | An awareness of the effects of environmental pollution is necessary if we wish to future   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>proof our natural resources for coming generations. In this case, measurement of our population of threatened species can be indicative of worrying trends, and encourages the protection and preservation of indigenous wildlife.</p> |
|--|---|

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***Horizons Regional Council***

- Undertook work as part of the Whanganui River catchment study, this has seen the development of eight operative farm plans and \$130,000 worth of development completed.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community facilities***

#### Parks and reserves

- Extended the riverbank walkway from the town bridge downstream, with the addition of approximately 700m in the 2005/06 financial year. The construction of paling fences and ground levelling was also undertaken. A path from Balgownie Avenue extended the walkway down to the river and alongside the AFFCO freezing works to the junction of Karoro Road and Beach Road, with another 250m constructed prior to Christmas 2006.
- Began work on the waterfront development project. This will eventually consist of a boardwalk, landscaping and lighting along Moutoa Quay adjacent to the Whanganui River and was the second most popular of a list of 14 optional projects in Referendum '05. Construction has begun and work is likely to be complete by mid 2007.

### ***Community support***

#### Community development

- Supported the Te Awa Tupua exhibition.

### ***Water***

#### Whanganui River control

- Continued to provide safe access to the river for a variety of uses.
- Sought ongoing environmental enhancement of the river edge.
- Sought ongoing accessibility improvements to the river and river edge.
- Continued to recognise Iwi's special relationship with the river.
- Provided access to the river via slipways and ongoing clearance work.
- Removed sewage inflow to the river.

## **Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River?**

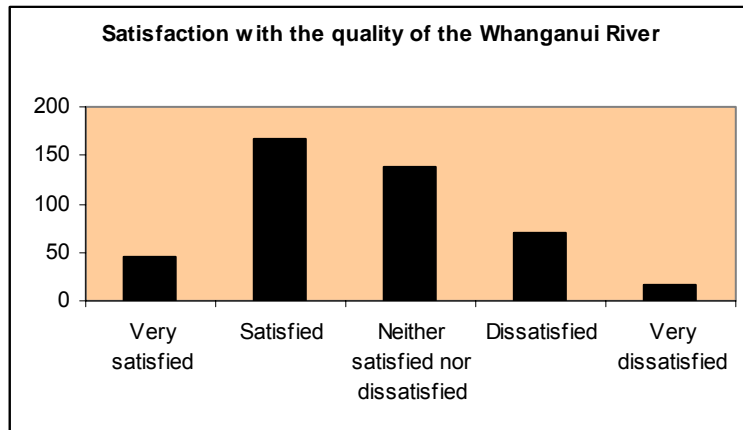
### **Community perception**

Satisfaction with the quality of the Whanganui River and its immediate surrounds was addressed by the Community Outcomes survey in late 2006. This revealed that the majority of residents are either generally satisfied or relatively unconcerned with standards as they are currently maintained. This is demonstrated below:

“How satisfied are you with the quality of the Whanganui River and its immediate surrounds?”

| Response                           | Number of responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Very satisfied                     | 46                  | 10.5       |
| Satisfied                          | 168                 | 38.3       |
| Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied | 138                 | 31.4       |
| Dissatisfied                       | 71                  | 16.2       |
| Very dissatisfied                  | 16                  | 3.6        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>439</b>          | <b>100</b> |

Note: one response was incorrectly entered by survey company and is unable to be deciphered.



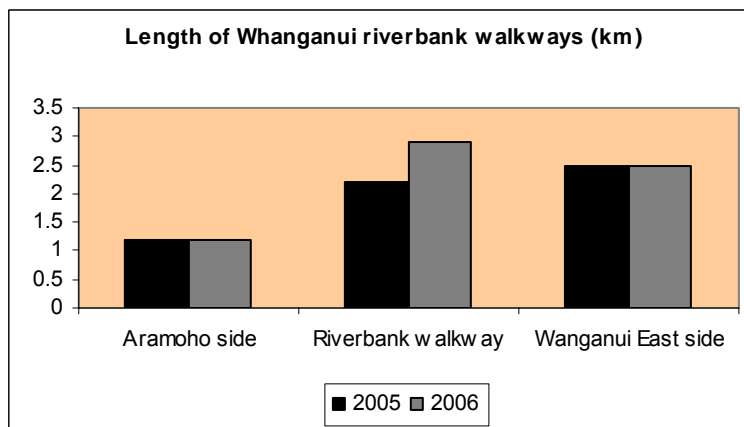
Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

However, it should be noted that the 2005 Youth Survey illustrated youth appreciation for the river’s environmental and aesthetic presence, with the river securing the largest share of votes among those respondents who were most satisfied with Wanganui’s environment.

A focus on the river was also revealed by the 2003 Community Views Survey, with 9% of respondents believing that riverbank maintenance, erosion and flood control would be major issues to face Wanganui in the next few years.

#### Length of riverbank walkways

Work has continued in this area, principally through the addition of 700m to the riverbank walkway in the central city area. The length of this part of the walkway is now 2.9m and provides improved access to the river for recreation and amenity purposes. The total length of all Whanganui River walkways, including the Aramoho side, central and Wanganui East walkways is 6.6km. Frequency of access to the Whanganui River, including both surface activities and walkway use, is to be measured by the 2007 Community Views Survey.

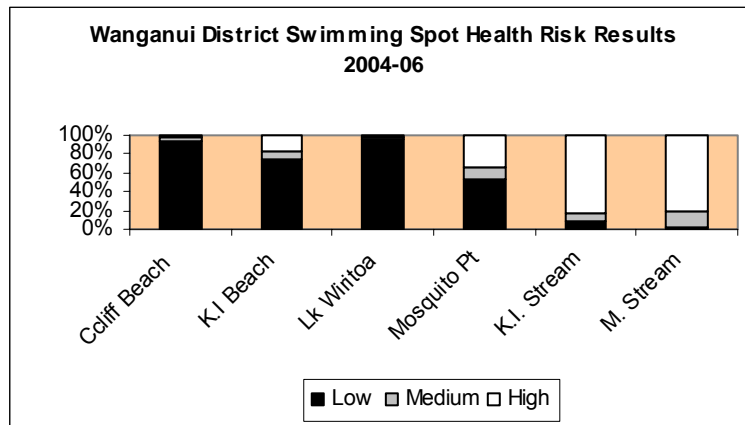


Source: Wanganui District Council

**River water quality and access to the river**

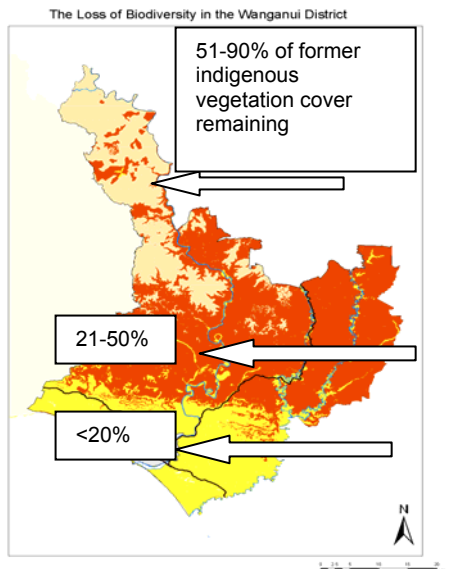
The following table measures enterococci as an indicator of water quality for recreational use. Enterococci are bacteria normally present in the intestine, with low readings of this bacteria tending to indicate that the river poses a low health risk to recreational users. A low level of enterococci bacteria is considered to be less than 140 enterococci per 100mls, average readings are more than 140 but less than 280 and high readings represent more than 280 enterococci per 100mls. Horizons Regional Council reports that the measured swimming spot at Mosquito Point met the guidelines 67% of the time during summer 2005-06. Although this may give the impression that swimming at this spot may be risky, it should be noted that good and poor water quality is fairly predictable and is often based on rain events.

|  | LOW       | MEDIUM   | HIGH     |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|
| Castlecliff Beach                        | 45        | 2        | 1        |
| Kai Iwi Beach                            | 36        | 4        | 8        |
| Lake Wiritoa                             | 47        | 1        | 1        |
| <b>Whanganui River at Mosquito Point</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>7</b> |
| Kai Iwi Stream at Archer's Bridge        | 3         | 4        | 32       |
| Mowhanau Stream at Kai Iwi Beach         | 1         | 10       | 44       |



Source: Horizons Regional Council

Monitoring and maintenance of the river is similarly achieved through the Whanganui River control activity. This service is concerned with the clearance of silt and debris from boat ramps, vegetation and debris management, the monitoring and observation of bank and channel characteristics, protection works to counteract erosion/slippage and the provision of opportunities for public access.



**River biodiversity**

There is no data currently available to specifically capture Whanganui River biodiversity; however, general biodiversity patterns in the Wanganui District have been measured by Horizons Regional Council. Investigations into appropriate Whanganui River measures will continue.

The accompanying map indicates a pattern of loss similar to that of the rest of the region, with effects particularly felt in areas of highest land production value and human settlement, i.e. Wanganui's coastal land areas and lowlands.

The map also reflects typical patterns of protection, whereby public conservation land with no

production value tends to dominate the instances of best coverage. However, as these areas are still subject to pest damage the quality and quantity of indigenous habitat continues to decline.

While wetland cover is not demonstrated here, the Manawatu/Wanganui region has lost more than 98% of former cover. This degree of loss is similarly reflected in the Wanganui District, particularly in the coastal sand country and easy flat land.

## **Conclusion**

There is recognised potential for closer alignment of the Whanganui River to the Community Outcome aims of residents. It is hoped that with increases in usability, accessibility and general aesthetics, measures of satisfaction will favourably shift. Ongoing consultation with Iwi regarding river development will continue, for example through the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board. In addition, support from the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust will sustain improvements in river water quality.

## **Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River into the future**

Works programmes within the immediate vicinity of the river will continue to recognise Wanganui's intrinsic link with this waterway. Walkway extensions and the riverfront development will provide particularly effective opportunities for access and recreation and will support both the cultural and environmental aims of Council and the wider community.

### ***Long-term community***

- Horizons Regional Council will continue its work with the Whanganui River and will assume responsibility for emergency response and vegetation control from 1 July 2007.

### ***Long-term Council***

- Completion of the waterfront development project will be achieved.
- Ongoing work is likely to be undertaken through the Major Regional Initiative in tourism.
- The riverfront walkway will continue to be developed.
- Ongoing collaboration with Iwi will be ensured.
- Flood protection works from the Matarawa Stream and Whanganui River will be undertaken. Existing stopbanks and the flapgate network will also be maintained.
- Environmental enhancement of the Whanganui River will continue through the environmental policy activity.
- Negotiations with Horizons Regional Council will include transferring the responsibility of vegetation, monitoring, emergency response, protection works and erosion control by 2008/09.
- Development of the full cultural and environmental potential of the Whanganui River will also continue through the Whanganui River control activity.
- Completion of the wastewater scheme will remove potential sewage overflows to the river and improve water quality.
- River bylaw development will be undertaken.
- Sealing of the Whanganui River Road will be undertaken.

## People working together



The significance of community collaboration for the betterment of the Wanganui District is recognised by this outcome. While partnerships and consultation continue to be encouraged both in an interagency sense, and between Council and community, it appears that Wanganui's ability to effectively network is yet to receive an unqualified stamp of approval. Currently 47% of survey participants believe that organisations work together 'very well' or 'well'.

### Importance of people working together

| Indicator                                    | Relevance  |
|--|--|
| Community perceptions                        | Social cohesion is a critical factor in the development and maintenance of strong, safe and happy communities. Where residents believe that differing community organisations are able to work collaboratively for the greater good, this suggests that both residents and District are to reap the rewards. Issues of harmony are similarly addressed, with negative racial divisions undermining these efforts and impacting on individual and cultural wellbeing. |
| Level of participation in planning processes | Participation in the decision-making and planning processes of Council is a key determinant of a strong, just and fair community. The significance of community voices in local government is recognised by the consultation process. Our effectiveness at capturing public opinion is measured here by the number of submissions lodged and votes cast.   |
| Community involvement in decision-making     | The Local Government Act 2002 focuses on democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of communities. It is important to look at the nature of Council decision-making and in particular to measure resident satisfaction with decision-making and local authority consultation processes.  |
| Levels of voter turnout at local elections   | Voter turnout rates are a measure of political participation. They can be seen as an indicator of the extent to which citizens feel part of the political process, and an indicator of the level of trust in political institutions.   |

## **What has the community achieved?**

### ***Te Puni Kokiri***

- Collaborated with Iwi regarding the Whanganui River and provided funding.
- Provided additional funding for other initiatives.
- Provided assistance to the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board.
- Undertook a Māori engagement programme for the Māori electoral roll in partnership with the Electoral Office.
- Provided funding to Māori artists through the 'Turning Points' exhibition.

### ***Mainstreet Wanganui***

- Undertook work in partnership with Great Events and the Masters Games to attract visitors to the Central Business District. This has been achieved through the display of in-store banners, the erection of street banner and flags and the distribution of maps, walk brochures, merchandise and vouchers.
- Liaised with the Wanganui Arts Development Trust to promote the mardi-gras cultural festival, African drums, Chinese Association and Indian dancing events.

## **What has Council achieved?**

### ***Community support***

#### **Community development**

- Provided funding to community organisations through the Community Contracts process.
- Continued work with local Iwi in compliance with Iwi partnership agreements.
- Conducted neighbourhood surveys.
- Held Older People Forums.
- Facilitated youth input into Council decision-making through the Youth Committee.
- Achieved additional community collaboration through the Make It. Take It. project. This works in partnership with contributing community organisations and seeks to strengthen the training, education and employment needs of young people within a hands-on and community driven context.
- Received funding from the Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund to undertake a Computers in Homes project to benefit 150 local families.

#### **Emergency management**

- Extended the rural 'Very High Frequency' radio telephone network to incorporate thirteen sites. An extensive 'telephone tree' warning system was developed for advance notice of the Crater Lake lahar for residents of the Whangaehu Valley. This network has potential application to other natural hazards, as well as community (crime) safety issues.

### ***Governance***

#### **Governance and democracy**

- Conducted Referendum '05 in May 2005. The following three initiatives were ranked first, second and third respectively – Splash Centre extension, Whanganui Riverfront development and footpath upgrades.
- Conducted Referendum '06 in early 2006. The results were as follows:
  - 82% want to keep the spelling of Wanganui as it is (without the 'h').
  - 75% would like the Council to investigate the softening of the water supply.
  - 74% rejected fluoridating the water supply.
  - 60% voted to reduce the size of Council.
  - 53% voted to abolish the urban and rural wards in favour of one District ward.
- Created new Council committees to drive social and cultural development. These include heritage, youth and sport and activity.
- Held regular, publicly notified Council and committee meetings. Agendas and minutes have been freely distributed.
- Held public meetings, including the Mayor's rural forums and those at the town hall.

- Conducted representation reviews, including a review of Māori participation.
- Held meetings with regard to changes in the Building Act.
- A Child Health Taskforce was created to assist the Whanganui District Health Board to recruit and retain clinicians to deliver full secondary level child health and maternity services at Wanganui Hospital.

### **Corporate**

#### Corporate management

- Ensured community participation in the decision-making process through the annual and 10-year planning processes.
- Ensured community input into the determination of funding priorities through the annual and 10-year planning processes; and through community referenda.
- Contributed to the development of policies and strategies in consultation with the community.

## **People working together?**

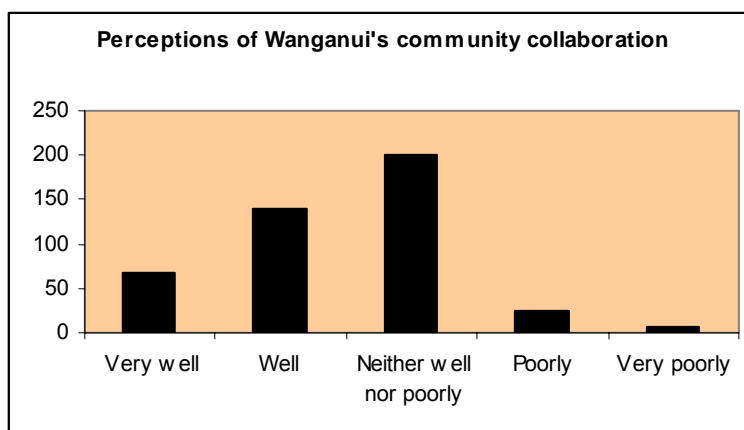
### **Community perceptions**

This outcome relates to both the concept of the wider Wanganui community working in collaboration and Council's ability to adequately inform and involve the public in the decision-making process. Related priorities include Iwi partnerships, the arts and cultural sector working together, the education and employment sectors working together and community input into the determination of funding allocations. The table below reflects elements of this outcome:

"How well do you think that Wanganui's different community organisations work together?"

| <b>Response</b>                | <b>Number of responses</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Very well</b>               | <b>68</b>                  | <b>15.5</b>       |
| <b>Well</b>                    | <b>139</b>                 | <b>31.7</b>       |
| <b>Neither well nor poorly</b> | <b>201</b>                 | <b>45.9</b>       |
| <b>Poorly</b>                  | <b>24</b>                  | <b>5.5</b>        |
| <b>Very poorly</b>             | <b>6</b>                   | <b>1.4</b>        |
|                                |                            |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>438</b>                 | <b>100</b>        |

**Note:** two responses were incorrectly entered by survey company and are unable to be deciphered.



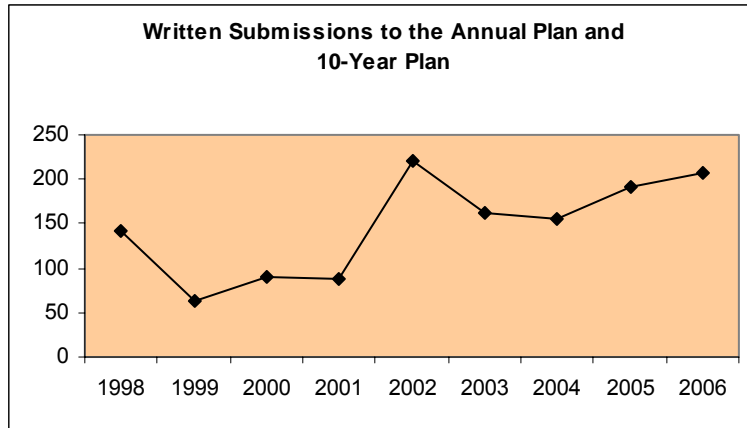
Source: Community Outcomes survey 2006

Perceptions of social cohesion also impact on the concept of community participation. Social and cultural disharmony such as feelings of racial division affect our ability to interact within a strong, safe and happy community. Questions of safety were addressed in the 2006 Community Outcomes survey and suggest that perceptions of racial disharmony are low. While 23% of residents believed Wanganui to be an unsafe city, only 2.1% identified racial conflict as a contributing factor. In the 2003 Community Views Survey 8% of residents identified racial disharmony as a key issue facing the District in the forthcoming years.

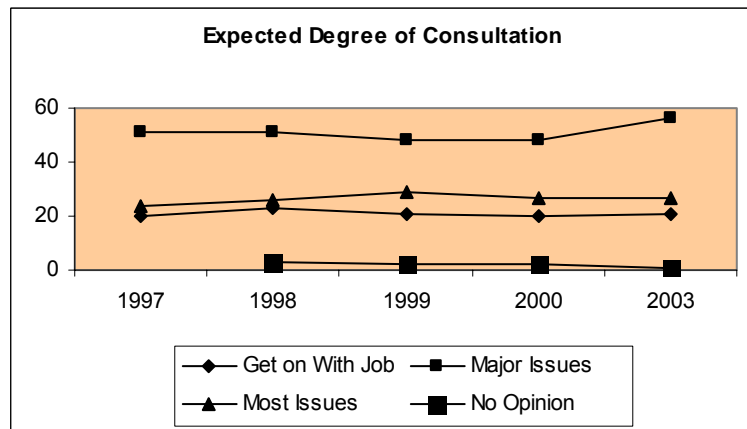
**Level of participation in planning processes**

Community involvement in Council planning processes is illustrated by the following graphs. These indicate that community participation in this area is trending upwards. In 2006 the Council's 10-Year Plan attracted 207 submissions compared to 163 submissions in 2003. 192 submissions were received to the Annual Plan in 2005.

Previous Community Views Surveys tend to suggest that most residents would prefer Council to consult on major issues only. 51% of respondents believed this to be the case in both 2000 and 2003. Satisfaction with the Council and Mayor was identified as a popular response in the 2006 Community Outcomes Survey by residents assessing potential reasons behind Wanganui's perceived economic growth (25% of respondents to this question).



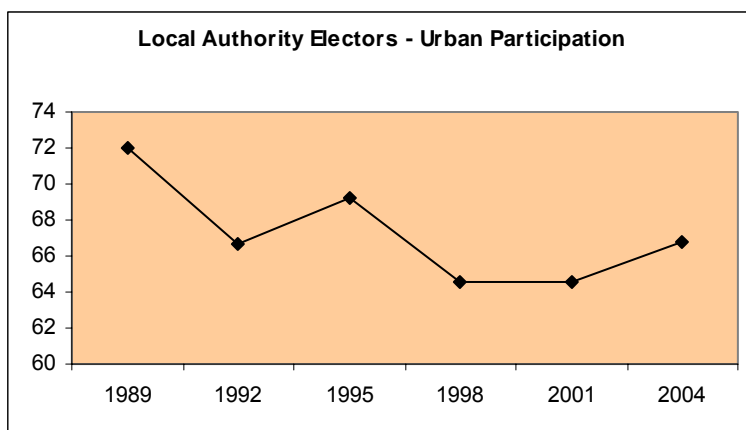
Source: Wanganui District Council



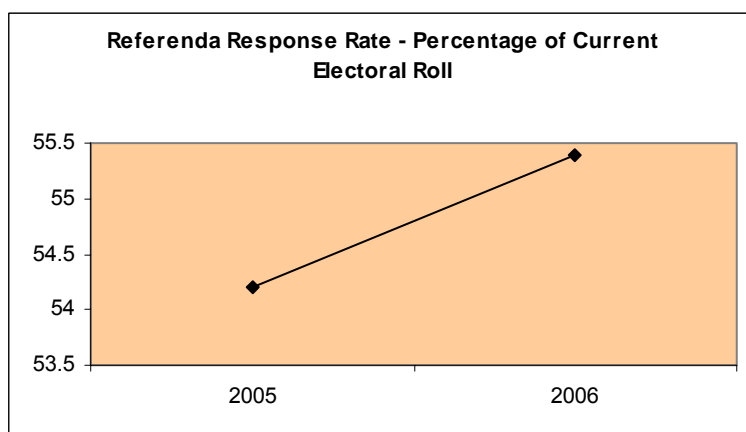
Source: Community Views survey 2003

**Community involvement in decision-making and levels of voter turnout at local elections**

Participation in the Council's referenda process has also remained high. This has seen 55.5% of registered voters (30,719) participating in 2006 compared to 54.2% in 2005. Similar increases are demonstrated by urban participation in the Local Authority Elections. In 2004 66.8% of registered voters participated, compared to 64.6% in 2001.



Source: Wanganui District Council



Source: Wanganui District Council

## Conclusion

While Council and community efforts at effective collaboration are not particularly recognised, it can be seen that participation in the decision-making and planning process is both encouraged and actively assumed, with response rates and the lodging of submissions both witnessing gains. Specific satisfaction with both Councillors and Council staff is to be assessed by the 2007 Community Views Survey.

## People working together into the future

Council will continue to encourage community collaboration both through its own practice and through its associations and influence over others. The community has indicated through the 2006 Community Outcomes survey that there is room for improvement and, as a result, practices such as referenda, public forums and interagency partnerships will continue to be strengthened.

### **Long-term community**

- Te Puni Kokiri will continue its work with local Iwi, particularly regarding the Whanganui River and the provision of funding opportunities. Involvement with the Whanganui River Māori Trust Board will also be ongoing.

### **Long-term Council**

- Referendum '07 will be held in April 2007. This will cover soft water, Wanganui Anniversary Day/public holiday, the gang patch by-law and kerbside recycling. An additional referendum will be held in October 2007 and will cover the Heart of Wanganui project.
- Investigations into the development of a Māori Committee will continue.
- Iwi liaison will continue with both TamaUpoko and Tupoho.

- Funding for community organisations will continue to be distributed via the Community Contracts process.
- The community development activity will continue to foster Iwi relationships and encourage community participation in the decision-making process.
- The Make It. Take It. project will continue to operate in conjunction with Whanganui DHB, YMCA Wanganui, Wanganui Police, Sport and Recreation Wanganui, Radio Network Wanganui, Whanganui UCOL, Wanganui Skateboard Trust, Work and Income, Youth Services Trust, Te Oranganui Iwi Health Authority, Whanganui Community Foundation and Wanganui Youth Collected.
- Council will continue to ensure effective practices of consultation to enable greater community input into the decision-making process.
- Contact with the community will be maintained through Council and committee meetings, the provision of agendas and minutes and the facilitation of public meetings such as rural forums.