

# Huntly Community Plan

*Developed and written by community members of Huntly  
2015 - 2025*



*'Developing a positive, growing, successful and connected town'*

***Huntly, our place our home***

# **Forward**

from the Huntly Community Board Chair

*Kia ora katoa and welcome to our Huntly Community Plan for 2015 - 2025. Our Plan captures the shared vision of Huntly and outlines key objectives the community would like realised over the next five to ten years.*

*Since the last plan was published there have been a number of initiatives achieved. The Main Street upgrade, our heated pool, library services have stayed local and we raised the pedestrian footbridge.*

*The focus for Huntly in the coming years will be the implementation of the NZTA bypass and understanding how we can make it work for us.*

*As our community moves away from reliance on coal mining being the main source of employment, we need to prepare for and be ready to accommodate alternative industries to the area. That means having land available for industries to set up their business and residential land options to encourage people to come and live in the area.*

*We believe that Huntly is a great place to live, play and invest in. We are embracing Huntly's future - a positive, growing, successful town and connected community.*

*This plan sets out how we will work together to realise our vision and will be a living document that the whole community can own and be engaged with.*

*We look forward to working with you to make this happen.*

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# Vision

*'Developing a positive, growing, successful and connected town'*



We have identified six main themes to help realise our vision for Huntly, they include:

- Stimulating pride in the Community
- Rebranding of Huntly to New Zealand
- Enabling Huntly to grow
- Creating employment opportunities
- Promoting leisure and recreational activities
- Creating a healthy and safe community

To realise our vision, the Community has listed a number of projects and initiatives, which have been grouped under each of the six themes. An Action Plan has also been developed to make sure these projects happen!

## **The purpose of this Community Plan**

The Huntly Community Plan was first completed in 2004. Since then, the Plan has seen a number of projects come to fruition. The Huntly community has seen change – some for the better of the township, and some not so good for the town.

The Huntly bypass will be completed by 2019 now we have two options, either we sit back and let it happen, or we work together and turn the bypass into a golden opportunity to determine our own future.

In developing this community plan the Huntly Community Board and community members have been proactive in setting a plan to drive the area's future.

This plan is not for the Council or the Huntly Community Board. It's for you and the entire Huntly community.

With community support for this plan the Huntly Community Board can promote to the Council, government agencies, community organisations and individuals the agreed goals and outcomes to be achieved for the betterment of the Huntly.

Contained within this plan are the Long Term Plan priorities Huntly would like realised within the 10 year lifespan of this plan. The community plan is a living document and as such will undergo a monitoring and review process to ensure that it remains a true reflection of the Huntly community vision.

# Map of Huntly



**Huntly, our place our home**

# Huntly – looking back

## Huntly/ Rahui Pokeka

In the early 1840's Reverend Ashwell established a Missionary Station, Kaitotehe, across the river from Taupiri Mountain. While Ashwell was living there, the local Maori pointed out a coal seam further to the north. This coal was later tested and proved to be usable coal.

A small mine, Kupa Kupa, was developed on the west side of the river, south of Huntly. The coal from this mine was used during the Waikato Wars to fire the steamers used by the British forces.

During this same war, at Rahui Pokeka, as Huntly was then known, a stockade had been built on the riverbank, not for soldiers, but for animals and stores. This was sited in the middle of what is today's Main Street.

After the wars some of the soldiers were granted land in our area. Most of the grants were 50 acres/20.2 hectares, and were on the east side of the river. This was the beginning of the European settlement of Huntly.

In 1870, a settler, James Henry arrived to take up the position of Postmaster. He named the town "Huntley Lodge" after his home in Scotland. Eventually the "Lodge" was dropped and then the "e".... Huntly.

The Ralph family were also one of our early families, and began working the first mine in the east side of the river. While mining this site, on the hill behind today's brickworks, fire-clay was discovered. A brickworks was then established.

More coal mines were opened in Huntly and the surrounding towns, hence Huntly became synonymous for both coal and bricks.

The town also supports a large outlying farming community. Miners, with dreams of being farmers, bought land, and worked the mines to pay for it. Their wives and children worked the land.

# A snapshot of Huntly today

Huntly has a loyal population and enjoys a rich history. It's where people say "it's a place you may leave...but you'll always come back."

Huntly is just an hour's drive from central Auckland and 25 minutes from Hamilton. It makes the perfect base for those wanting a small town lifestyle, with big city amenities. It lies adjacent to the mighty Waikato River and boasts several lakes and parks with picturesque walkways, all surrounded by rich farmland.

It has a very strong sporting history and is particularly strong in rugby league. There are several league clubs in the area and a number of famous international players began their careers in Huntly.

## Education

The Huntly area has a number of educational facilities, ranging from playcentres, kindergartens and primary schools through to year 13 at Huntly College. Local schools include:

- Huntly Playcentre
- Ruawaro Playcentre
- Huntly Kindergarten
- Huntly West Kindergarten
- Huntly Primary School (years 1 to 8)
- Huntly West School (years 1 to 8)
- Kimihia School (years 1 to 8)
- Orini Combined School (years 1 to 8)
- Ruawaro Combined School (years 1 to 8)
- St Anthony's Catholic School (years 1 to 8)
- Te Wharekura o Rakaumangamanga (years 1 to 13)
- Huntly College (years 9 to 13)

## Amenities and services

### Broadband network capability

- Great South Road, Huntly: Broadband >20Mbps (with right modem and plan)  
Broadband >10Mbps
- Parker Road: Broadband > 1 Mbps

## Churches

- Anglican Church
- Baptist Church
- Catholic Church
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Lakeside Christian Life Centre
- Trinity Church

## **Halls**

- Huntly Memorial Hall

## **Health Facilities**

There is a range of local health services available including:

- Huntly East Medical Centre
- Hakanoa Health Centre
- Huntly West Medical Centre

## **Library**

- Huntly Library

## **Local governance**

Huntly is part of the Waikato District and is governed by Waikato District Council. The Huntly Community Board is the local arm of the Council and provides valuable input into local issues.

## **Sports clubs and venues**

Huntly has a very proud and strong sporting history. Current clubs include:

- Huntly Thistle Association Football Club
- Huntly South Rugby League Football Club
- Fish, Game and Clay Target Club
- Taniwharau Rugby League
- Huntly Gymnastics Club
- Huntly Waka Club

## **Transport**

Huntly is situated right beside State Highway 1 which, in time, will be replaced by the Waikato Expressway and the major north-south road route. The Huntly section of the Expressway will provide very easy access to the township. Regular bus services operate in the area.

# Huntly at a glance - information from Statistics NZ:

## Population

2013 Census population figures for:				
Sex	Huntly West	Huntly East	Combined total	Waikato District Council
Male	1,377	1,941	3,318	31,752
Female	1,458	2,181	3,639	31,629
Total people	2,835	4,119	6,954	63,381

2,835 people usually live in Huntly West, which is a decrease of 93 people or 3.2 per cent, compared with 4,119 people usually living in Huntly East, which is an increase of 210 people or 5.4 per cent, since the 2006 Census.

### Number of dwellings counted:

There are 906 occupied dwellings and 105 unoccupied dwellings in Huntly West compared with 1,557 occupied dwellings and 120 unoccupied dwellings in Huntly East.

## Business

### 2013 Census top five industries for year ended February 2013: Huntly West

Industry (ANZSIC06)*	Huntly West		Waikato District Council	
	Employees	% of total employees	Employees	% of total employees
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	330	50.0	450	2.9
Education and training	170	25.8	1,500	9.7
Health care and social assistance	80	12.1	720	4.7
Mining	25	3.8	520	3.4
Administrative and support services	18	2.7	420	2.7

\*ANZSIC06 = Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006

There were 73 business locations in Huntly West compared with 7,969 for all of the Waikato District. This is a decrease of 20.7 per cent for the year ended February 2006. There were 660 paid employees in Huntly West compared with 15,460 for all of the Waikato District.

## Huntly East

Industry (ANZSIC06)*	Huntly East		Waikato District Council	
	Employees	% of total employees	Employees	% of total employees
Retail trade	240	16.0	690	4.5
Manufacturing	200	13.3	1,540	10.0
Mining	180	12.0	520	3.4
Health care and social assistance	170	11.3	720	4.7
Accommodation and food services	150	10.0	730	4.7

\*ANZSIC06 = Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006

There were 346 business locations in Huntly East compared with 7,969 for all of the Waikato District. This is a decrease of 7.5 per cent from the year ended February 2006. There were 1,500 paid employees in Huntly East compared with 15,460 for all of the Waikato District.

### Satellite urban community

Huntly Township is classified as a satellite urban community by Stats NZ. Satellite urban communities are defined as urban areas (other than main urban areas) where 20 per cent or more of the usually resident employed population's workplace address is in a main urban area for example Hamilton or Auckland.

## **Theme: Stimulating pride in the Community**

Our key objectives in realising this goal:

- *Attract people to Huntly*
- *Create an environment that our youth want to be part of*
- *Work together to make Huntly and surrounding areas attractive and appealing*

In order to create a successful community there needs to be a sense of pride and belonging among the people. Improving the visual appearance of the town and ensuring an even spread of Council resources helps to develop pride.

The projects identified below will help move the Community toward a greater sense of pride:

- Develop current events in Huntly, such as the half marathon, into community celebrations that have a weekend focus.
- Work in conjunction with both the Huntly College and Te Wharekura O Rakaumangamanga Boards of Trustees to initiate programmes that encourage pride in local students.
- Focus the youth of Huntly to be involved in erasing/preventing graffiti e.g. Leo Club (Junior Lions).
- Develop a strategy to initiate street/community pride e.g. Neighbourhood Watch or 'Adopt a Street' for spring cleaning.
- Work with Kiwi Rail to do some green planting (landscaping) to screen the railway line through town.
- Support youth focussed initiatives e.g. Rahui Pokeka Rangatahi Network
- Commit to refurbishing the bridges and footbridge e.g. feature lighting for Tainui Bridge and the promotion of arches on the water.
- Support initiatives to ensure our history is preserved and protected e.g. the upgrade of Waikato Coalfields Museum.
- Promote the bypass as an opportunity to provide a place to live, work and play.
- Support and promote initiatives that promote our area.

# Theme: Rebranding of Huntly to New Zealand

Our key objectives in realising this goal:

- *Identifying Huntly as our place our home*
- *There is a positive association with the name 'Huntly'*

Huntly is a great place to live, work and play. However, not everyone knows that and currently there is still a negative perception of Huntly out there. We want to change this perception so that we have a reputation we can build on and grow.

The projects identified below will help progress this:

- Put together a promotional brochure of Huntly and what it has to offer, to be distributed at Field Days and South Auckland PO Boxes.
- Change the attitude of both residents and visitors alike.
- Vibrant and colourful paintings by local artists to enhance the town entrance
- We need to be smart, do more with less and win support for change.
- Promote Huntly as an area that is more affordable, centrally located and accessible to all.
- Reshaping the way businesses see Huntly.

## **Theme: Enabling Huntly to grow**

Our key objective in realising this goal:

- *Provide essential infrastructure and mechanisms to facilitate growth and development in the area*

We want to make sure we have development and industry to meet existing and future needs. We want to ensure land is available for future development and a wide range of options to attract investors to the area.

The projects identified below will help progress this:

- Initiate and promote 'industry friendly' policies and better utilise existing infrastructure.
- Protection of existing use rights and current zones and policy areas for Huntly and surrounding areas in the District Plan.
- Zone land for future industrial purposes and consider implementing industry precincts.
- Zone land for future residential purposes.
- Consider Transport Orientated Development (TODs) which encourages people to use public transport, the use of cycleway and pedestrian movement, and move away from the reliance and use of cars.
- Work with a range of community groups to facilitate community development initiatives providing growth and employment opportunities to our youth.
- Go to <http://openwaikato.co.nz/> for updates on Huntly

## **Theme: Creating employment opportunities**

Our key objectives in realising this goal:

- *Unleashing Huntly's potential*
- *Support existing and welcome new business to the area*
- *Local jobs for local people*

Now, more than ever, is the right time to be investing in Huntly. Encourage unique employment opportunities within the area and ensure that there are solid employment opportunities for local people.

The projects identified below will help to progress this:

- Set up an academy for apprentices in manufacturing/industrial employment.
- Industrial and light industrial zoned land to facilitate and attract manufacturing and productive industry to the area.
- Diversification.
- Work with Tainui led employment initiatives.
- Actively promote local tourism opportunities.
- Be open to employment opportunities that come our way.

## **Theme: Promoting leisure and recreational activities**

Our key objectives in realising this goal:

- *Attract sports and leisure to Huntly*
- *Promote Huntly's lakes, river and its natural environments*

Huntly currently provides a wide range of activities. There is also the potential for many water-based activities at the eleven lakes. However, we aren't making the most of what Huntly has to offer and as a consequence people are not aware of the area's natural playground.

The projects identified below will help to progress this:

- Establish a Huntly evening market held by the lakes or river.
- Actively work towards hosting and creating an annual event.
- Promote and better utilise the Huntly Pool facilities.
- Maximise the opportunities that the river provides and celebrate the river as an asset to the town not a 'divider'.
- Create better access to our recreational and natural features.
- Create linger nodes within the town.
- Support and grow existing events and encourage new events to the area.

## **Theme: Creating a healthy and safe community**

Our key objectives in realising this goal:

- *Retain and improve our social services*
- *Ensure our residents feel safe in their community*

We want to promote and where possible support the social service facilities available to our community so they have a better understanding of where they can go. By promoting and encouraging the use of these services we will help to connect our people creating a healthy and safer environment.

The projects identified below will facilitate a sense of security and create a healthy community:

- A commitment from the Council that they will lead by example and maintain the properties they own, situated around the town.
- Continue to liaise with NZ Police to ensure a stronger police presence within the Community.
- Support the Youth Court established at Waahi Marae to assist in the rehabilitation of young offenders.
- Ensure that the bus services are retained and/or expanded to keep the internal service operation and to seek additional services that bring residents from satellite towns to Huntly.
- Provide additional security lighting and surveillance cameras in the main street.
- Explore parking options, to include the provision of safer parking with easy access to the main street and key community facilities.
- Continue the footpath maintenance programme and provide access for mobility scooters.
- Build better relationships within our communities and community support initiatives e.g. Neighbour Hood Support, the 'It's not OK' anti-family violence initiative, Project Harmony, Huntly Community Patrol, Huntly in Action and Social Sector Trials.

## **The role of the Community and Council**

A lot of what you have identified in this plan depends on time, energy and resourcing donated by various community groups, organisations and individuals within Huntly and beyond.

The Huntly Community Board will take the initiative in making sure that the plans' vision is achieved. This will be done by ensuring the plan remains a living document and undergoes an ongoing monitoring and review process to ensure that it is a true reflection of the Huntly community vision.

It is important to remember, this is not a Council plan. This plan is for the Huntly community and is owned by you.

The Council's role is more one of facilitator, where specific projects can be incorporated into the Long Term Plan work programme, which have been prioritised by the Huntly Community Board.

With regard to financial support, the Council provides discretionary funding to assist community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations operating within the council's rural wards and community board areas.

# Appendices

1. Action Plan
2. Creative Communities: Huntly Report
3. Huntly Kids Kitchen