

# Project Wairarapa - A Brief History

## Incorporation

Project Wairarapa (PW) was registered as an Incorporated Society on 6 January 2015 with the following objectives:

- To promote/support strong communities that are inclusive of all Wairarapa residents especially the elderly, vulnerable and residents without local family connections.
- To create/support events and education of practices that develop sustainable, resilient communities.
- To establish and encourage community networks.

## Resilient Carterton



Helen Dew, a PW member made a submission to the Carterton District Council (CDC) Long Term Plan proposing leadership in public education surrounding climate change and promoting resilience as CDC policy.

### The Resilient Carterton document – December 2015

Helen's submission subsequently led to "Resilient Carterton" (RC), a document that outlines what a resilient community looks like; the behaviours, the skills and resources, and the barriers to becoming resilient. It included a programme of workshops intended to fulfil its objectives. This was presented to CDC in December 2015; CDC were cautious and initially preferred that PW act independently.

### Workshop 1 – March 2016

Workshop 1 was delivered in March 2016. Using World Café, the workshop canvassed the behaviours, the skills and resources, and the barriers to becoming resilient. Four themes emerged:

- Understand skills and resources
- Build community
- Develop in a sustainable way
- Be prepared

The professionalism of the workshop led to CDC's new CE, Jane Davis, recognising PW/RC as a worthwhile partner to carry forward initiatives in these areas. Since then our relationship with CDC has bloomed.



### Workshop 2 – May 2016

Workshop 2 was delivered in May 2016. The workshop canvassed opportunities in the four theme areas.

### Follow Up 1 – October 2016

A follow up of the stream leaders and project team members showed some initiatives making good progress and others having less success. Carterton's Mayor, John Booth, strongly commended what we were doing and suggested that the other two districts would benefit from an equivalent initiative.

### Successes

**Eco-design** – each month a house with outstanding eco design features is showcased in the Carterton Crier.

**Project Connect** – emergency management preparedness is progressing strongly and has folded the skills and resources initiative into it. Full partnership with CDC, Neighbourhood Support and WREMO.

**On site water storage** – this has been submitted to the CDC Annual Plan and action is likely in the forthcoming triennium.

**Community Gardens** – the initiative in workshop 2 took on more than it could deliver. The community garden initiative is a strong output from the Tomorrow Action Workshop so we'll still see action on this. Meanwhile PW people have worked with Rangitahi to Rangitira (R2R) on their community garden at the Community Social Services Hub – Haumanu House.

## Project Wairarapa

PW have been undertaking some initiatives at the Wairarapa wide level in response to suggestion from stakeholders.

### Wairarapa Time Bank

Wairarapa Time Bank is an ongoing project that runs under the umbrella of Project Wairarapa. Time banking allows people to trade using time as the "currency" for sharing skills and tasks where a helping hand is required.

[www.wairarapatimebank.nz](http://www.wairarapatimebank.nz)

### Food Forest – September 2016

PW organised a Food Forest Workshop at South End School. PW sourced and hosted two leading permaculture teachers. We partnered with CDC to sponsor four participants, including a representative from R2R and from Hurunui-o-rangi Marae.

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### Tomorrow - the film & Action Workshop – November/December 2016



Recognising the need to continue the 'buzz' around PW/RC, PW organised a special screening of the film at Regent 3 Theatre, Masterton 22 November 2016 – we filled the 100 seat theatre raising enough money to cover the costs of the Follow up Action Workshop. The movie is divided into five themes:

- Energy
- Food
- Economy
- Democracy
- Education

### Action Workshop

On 1 December PW facilitated an Action Workshop. This generated 13 project proposals based on themes from the film. Both the movie and the Action Workshop have attracted interest and participation from across Wairarapa.

### Action Workshop Projects

The projects follow the five themes from the "Tomorrow" movie. The list below is a sample, full list on the Project Wairarapa website.

- Propaganda Gardens in Carterton & Masterton  
Local food gardens in public spaces.
- Knowledge Cafe  
Monthly social meetings to build local political awareness.
- Cycling Infrastructure  
Make it easier, safer, more convenient to bicycle.
- Car Pooling  
Increase usage and uptake of car pooling in the Wairarapa.
- Re-Generation Workshop Series  
Establish five projects to learn essential skills inter-generationally.
- Garden Tool Library  
Allow people to share garden tools as required.
- Social Media Project  
Connect with youth through the channels they use.



### Publicity

PW are now gaining publicity and traction across the Wairarapa valley. Examples include:

- Poster - public places
- Newsnet.Live - video on Tomorrow the Movie
- Arrow FM - interview about Tomorrow - the movie
- Carterton Crier - regular reports

### An Opportunity: Community Led Development

Winifred Mahowa of the Department of Internal Affairs has been a constant, supportive presence at our workshops since the very first Resilient Carterton workshop in March 2016. She has coached us on best practice

approaches with respect to Community Led Development (CLD) and with the support of her Regional Manager suggested that PW/RC should consider partnering with the Department on a CLD initiative. PW have been canvassing this idea with key people in the community.

### Carterton District Council

PW flagged to CDC's CE what was being discussed and Winifred and PW's Ron Shaw met with her and Gerry Brooking of CDC. The CDC staff are very supportive of PW exploring the CLD idea further.

### Hurunui-o-rangi Marae

In September, PW people were hosted onto Hurunui-o-rangi Marae for an introduction and discussion about the role and activities of PW.

We were able to mention the early conversations on Community Led Development. The PW initiative that piqued their interest was Time Banking. Wairarapa Time Bank will be part of the CLD proposal.

### Salvation Army

PW have a strong relationship with the local Salvation Army leader, Logan Bathurst, and he has indicated that he would be happy to take a proposal to his line of management for Carterton Salvation Army to act as fund-holder for CLD.

### General Connections

PW people are well connected in the Carterton Community and have been socialising the idea of CLD with our connections, which range from complete newcomers to people whose families have been in the district from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or in the case of Iwi, several hundred years before that.