

Assessment of Effects

Strengths

Ngaruawahia and the surrounding district have an interesting and diverse history, which connects with national stories, such as those of the 1860s Waikato War and the development of the railways. The history of the area also reflects the contributions made by individuals and families who helped to develop the district through their farming, light industrial, civic, religious and social activities.

The Waikato District Heritage Strategy identifies the value of historic heritage resources to the community and provides a framework for a coherent and comprehensive approach to the identification, protection and management of these resources.

Weaknesses

Rules pertaining to scheduled heritage items are not immediately accessible within either of the District Plans that Waikato Council presently has responsibility for.

The absence of a local history museum in Ngaruawahia means that there is no dedicated venue within which to promote the district's heritage places and stories.

Opportunities

In addition to acknowledging the history of the town and its outlying village settlements, the Ngaruawahia Structure Plan provides the opportunity, by means of the public notification, hearing and implementation process, to raise the profile of the district's heritage values.

Urban design strategies developed for the Structure Plan area can take account of the individual historical genesis of all six settlements within the Structure Plan area and consider planning, design and planting actions that acknowledge the history of the area.

Threats

Loss of built heritage items may result from intensification should a future planning framework fail to provide for the protection of listed items and their surroundings.

Extensive light industrial development could further erode the identity of Horotiu within the Te Rapa-Ngaruawahia corridor and the success of the Waikato Expressway could undermine the commercial viability of businesses located in Taupiri and Ngaruawahia's heritage and character building stock, thereby fostering a 'demolition by neglect' scenario in both places.

Recommended Heritage Planning Actions

Key recommendations to be considered as part of the Ngaruawahia Structure Plan and incorporated in to the subsequent District Plan Change are as follows:

- 1. Additional heritage items should be added, by way of variation, to the Waikato District Plan in order to manage their conservation and continued use.*
- 2. Within Ngaruawahia the Waipa and Waikato River Esplanades have multiple heritage values; a focused study of the esplanades is recommended to identify, protect and promote heritage values, including those embodied in residential buildings, in these critical areas.*
- 3. Historical information pertaining to the Structure Plan should be lodged in the Ngaruawahia Library. The establishment of a Kete Waikato portal by the Waikato District Libraries would facilitate the sharing of heritage information with and amongst members of the community.*
- 4. Information gleaned from the Structure Plan exercise should be used to assist in the formulation of Hopuhopu and Horotiu Community Plans, if and when such plans are drafted.*
- 5. Implementation of the Structure Plan and consequent Plan Change should be monitored to ensure that it maintains and enhances the heritage values of each settlement area.*
- 6. Reserve Management Plans should identify and promote the active management of historic heritage resources within council-owned reserves. Regardless of the classification of a particular reserve under the Reserves Act some may possess to historic heritage buildings, structures and/or features for which the council is responsible. Sound management of such resources allows the council to model best practice heritage conservation to other property owners.*
- 7. In some parts of the district council's rohe groups of houses are currently scheduled on the District Plan, for example the Matangi dairy factory houses. There may be community interest in identifying similar groups or clusters of buildings within Ngaruawahia and elsewhere in the district that can be shown to have heritage value and/or make a contribution to character streetscapes in terms of their age, style, setting, and location.*
- 8. A stand-alone Historic Heritage Chapter in a unitary District Plan, when one is developed in the future, would assist the owners of built heritage sites and structures to better understand the priority afforded to this resource management issue by council.*
- 9. Several significant council-owned heritage sites (including the former flourmill granary in Ngaruawahia and all of the district's cemeteries) present both heritage conservation challenges and cultural 'tourism' opportunities. The former flourmill granary should be secured against vandalism and further deterioration and a Conservation Plan prepared to assist council in conserving this major built heritage asset.*



Figure 112: Interior of former flourmill granary or store, Ngaruawahia. A McEwan, 5 March 2014.



Figure 113: Ngaruawahia Cemetery. A McEwan, 12 March 2014.

Conclusion

The Ngaruawahia Structure Plan provides Waikato District Council with an opportunity to consider how the history and heritage resources of the district might be used to maintain and enhance a sense of place and identity in Ngaruawahia, Taupiri, Hopuhopu, Glen Massey, Te Kowhai and Horotiu.

Appendix 1: Selected Bibliography

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- Horotiu School Souvenir Brochure: 1879-1962* (Ngaruawahia, 1962)
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- Norris, HCM *Settlers in Depression 1875-1894* (Hamilton, 1964)
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Taupiri School Centenary 1878-1978: a History of Taupiri School and District (Hamilton, 1978)

Te Kowhai District School, 1890-1950: Diamond Jubilee Reunion (Te Kowhai, 1950)

Te Kowhai School & District, 1890-1990: 'We Serve' (Hamilton, 1990)

Vennell, CW & Susan Williams *Raglan County Hills and Sea: a Centennial History 1876-1976* (Auckland, 1976)

Note: Hamilton Libraries holds a large collection of historic images relating to Ngaruawahia in particular, as well as some for Taupiri, Hopuhopu and Horotiu. The same institution also holds archives and information files about particular people, industries and buildings. Waikato Museum holds architectural plans of some structures in the district.



Figure 114: Rural letterboxes, Hakarimata Road, Ngaruawahia. A McEwan, 5 March 2014.

Appendix 2: Waikato District Plan – Historic Heritage Listing Criteria

Appendix C: Historic Heritage

C.A1 Criteria for Heritage Listings

The process of identifying and evaluating places of cultural heritage values requires criteria to ensure both consistency and objectivity. For every registered item there is a statement of significance for the item based on the evaluation criteria as follows:

- Historical
- Importance to the Community
- Aesthetic Appeal
- Rarity
- Architecture and use
- Technical
- Setting
- Context
- Cultural heritage value for present and future generations
- Integrity

Places have been listed as Category A or B, depending on the level of significance within each criterion and the number of criteria met. In general, although not always, the greater the number of criteria met, the higher the ranking. Every listed item will meet one or more of the criteria.

The list of heritage items in Table C1 is not the same as the NZ Historic Places Trust Register for Waikato District. It is a separate but parallel protection process.



Figure 115: Detail, Ngaruawahia Centennial Memorial Clock Tower. A McEwan, 5 March 2014