

# Future Thames

Thames  
Community Plan  
2006



*This plan is dedicated to the late Keith Managh of Thames whose support and passion for the Thames Community cemented this vision and document together.*

*Thank you Keith for your leadership*

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# From the Steering Committee

## Future Thames Steering Committee

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The Local Government Act 2002 requires all communities to complete a Community Outcomes Plan.

The Thames Community Plan was initiated in 2001 by a group of local residents who wanted a “vision” for Thames.

This group wanted to ensure that Thames progressed and set about to identify a community profile and the needs of each sector within the community. These needs have been prioritised into both long and short term actions, which form the basis of the Thames Community Plan.

The Plan is centred around the four well-beings referred to in the Local Government Act 2002—environmental, cultural, social and economic.

In developing this Plan, the Steering Committee has worked with representatives of public agencies, voluntary and private sectors and the local community, and believes the Plan to be a true reflection of the aspirations of the residents of the Thames ward.

This is the community’s chance to shape the future of the place we call home.

We hope you will take the time to read this Plan and give us your feedback.

Future Thames  
Steering Committee

# Capturing the Past

## What THAMES NEEDS

Chapter VII

*"The Illustrated Guide Book of THAMES and the Hauraki Plains".*

Published under the auspices of Thames Chamber of Commerce by Frank Brodle and R.J.K Simpson..

Copyright

Price - 2/6



*The Possession of natural resources, a genial climate and soil fertility are the foundations of wealth, but these would lie fallow for all time unless developed by the industry of man. What Thames needs to achieve the position destined for it by Nature is an influx of energetic settlers and citizens, who will aid the work of turning these natural gifts into active agencies for the benefit of man. For such men and women there are big rewards and something besides money - the satisfaction of rearing a permanent structure of prosperity on the sound foundations already well and truly laid.*

*Those people who have the foresight to grasp the many opportunities offering at present will find Thames a very pleasant place in which to live. The citizens are a friendly folk, who welcome newcomers, and do what they can to make things pleasant for them. All religious denominations are well represented, and the educational facilities are exceptionally good. There are three large primary schools in the town, a well-equipped Technical School, a School of Mines and Engineering, and a High School which is a model of this class of educational institution and a record of scholastic achievements which will compare with any other secondary school. The Thames Hospital, with its modern, well-equipped theatre and competent staff, has done good work in the past, and is capable of meeting any emergency.*

*There are many beautiful spots near Thames. The coast Road, alongside the Hauraki Gulf, fringed with flaming Pohutukawa in summer, is a glorious drive, and beaches along this route are playgrounds for campers from all parts of the Thames Valley and the Waikato. Recently a member of the Kauri Gum Commission said that the trip from Tapu, on the coast road, to Gumtown, on the East Coast, was the most beautiful ride in New Zealand. An attempt is being made to open this for vehicular traffic. Launches run daily from Thames up the Waihou and Piako Rivers, and many other interesting and beautiful spots are but a short journey from the town.*

*Personal investigation will justify everything that has been said in this booklet, and it is the hope of the writer that what has been written will induce men and women with vision to visit Thames and make personal inquiries on the spot. If they will do this, it can be confidently predicted that the great proportion will decide to become permanent residents, to assist the progress of the district and share in its prosperity.*

### A FEW FIGURES

*Thames is 42 miles (four hours) by steamer from Auckland. By Rail from Auckland, 148 miles; from Te Aroha, 28 miles; and 62 from Hamilton.*

*To March 31 1920, the Government had expended £349,348 on drainage and road works on Hauraki Plains; £74,805 was spent in 1920. Altogether, 443 3/4 miles of drains have been constructed.*

*To March 31, 1920, the total area of Crown land on Hauraki Plains thrown open for settlement was 40,391 acres, valued at £221,950. The value of stock sold in the three saleyards in the Crown area for the same period was £102,316, an increase of over £30,000 on the previous year. Large numbers of fat and other stock were also sent by road to other sales and to freezing works.*

*In 1918 the exports from within the Thames Harbour District were valued at over £3,000,000, of which 12,282 tons of dairy produce tallied up £1,683,191.*

*The population of Thames town at last census was 4768; of Thames County, 1789; and of Hauraki Plains County, 3356. All showed increases, but there is plenty of room for more people.*

# The Community Plan

## Why do a Community Plan?

As a short to medium term initiative for Thames and its outlying communities, the Community Plan will:

- focus community debate and involve people in making decisions and taking responsibility for our town.
- set direction and common goals, promote consensus and avoid division
- safeguard the community and the environment from exploitation (community representation at local, national and international levels will be sought)
- capture all good ideas and identify initiatives suitable for external funding
- assist Community Board decision-making and allow more effective use of ratepayer funds
- ensure the town is able to develop the same facilities that suit.
- help avoid haphazard development
- help influence Thames Coromandel District Council's programme of works during its annual and long-term planning processes
- show opportunities for individuals and groups to develop new projects and provide goods and services.

Reporting on and updating this Plan each year will enable the community to record achievements, and to check that the identified priorities are still correct. It will also be a chance to include new information and new ideas

## How will this Community Plan work?

The Plan will be used to secure support from within, and outside the community for funding for specific projects, and will be reported on regularly to the Community Board and the public. An annual review will enable success to be measured and information to be checked and updated. There's plenty of opportunity for *your* involvement at every stage of the process.

Individuals, groups and others will be able to pick up leads and develop new activities that provide goods and services, and which may lead to opportunities for employment creation. The Community Board will take an active role in promoting the Plan to the community and, where appropriate, facilitating project development.

This Community Plan - a collection of aspirations and priorities in future direction - is a community-owned document. It is a framework which can be used to guide decision making for local planning purposes.

For example, individuals and groups who may be searching for a community project to undertake could use the Plan to determine priorities for action or to support their requests for external funding.

As part of the Council's planning process, the Thames Community Board could use the Plan to determine local priorities and to recommend future work programmes to council.

In turn, for its annual and longer-term work programmes, the Thames-Coromandel District Council will need to take into account the principles and priorities of the local community, as outlined in the Community Plan and Council's own Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The Council could use the Community Plan as a basis for developing new policies for desired growth within the District.

Others who have an interest in the future of Thames will also find the Community Plan an essential planning guide, these include:

- Government Agencies
- Other Councils
- Developers/investors
- Visitors and tourist

# The Community Plan Process

## Who will have access to the Plan?

This Community Plan is readily available from Thames-Coromandel District Council offices, Thames Library and Thames Information Centre.

The Council undertakes to give a copy of the completed Plan to every new property owner in the area, and to supply a copy to those enquiring at any Council office or library.

## How will progress and success be measured?

A central record of activity will be kept at the District Council office, 515 Mackay Street, Thames, and through the Thames Community Board, progress will be reported to the community on at least a quarterly basis. Maintenance of the Plan will keep it up to date and "alive".

Maintaining the integrity of the Plan and monitoring its use is a necessary part of the implementation. A review of the Plan's achievements and confirmation of the next highest priorities will be carried out by the Community Board at a time to coincide with the preparation of Council's annual plan budgeting process.

A major review of this Community Plan may be called for by the community, or by the Community Board, which will again involve public consultation and input.

How well the whole process is working will be evaluated by Council staff that, as part of the Council's own strategic planning processes, are required to report to the Council on the way in which a locally developed plan is being utilised.

## How can new ideas be incorporated?

The Community Plan has been arranged like a workbook so that an individual or group may use it to keep a record of their activity and ideas.

The central record of activity, maintained by Council, will form the basis of the quarterly reports to the community and the annual review for the Community Board.

All comments on, or contributions to, this Community Plan should be made to the Steering Committee care of:

Mike Martin, Area Manager Thames/Coromandel  
Thames-Coromandel District Council,  
515 Mackay Street  
Private Bag  
Thames

# A Description of our Community

## Population Summary

The statistics shown are based on data obtained from the 2001 census.

<b>Population:</b>	6,750	
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	European	83%
	Maori	14.2%
<b>Age:</b>	14 years and under	20%
	15-34 years	20%
	35-54 years	29%
	55 years and over	31%
<b>Gender:</b>	female	51.5%
	male	48.5%

## Households

- 48% are couple only households
- 16% are one parent family households
- 59.5% are households with income less than \$50,000 \*
- 6% are households with income over \$100,000

## Housing Summary

- 67% are one or two person households
- 30% are between 3-5 person households
- 67% of households owned by the occupant

## Employment Summary

- 32% of the population earns salaries and wages
- 46% are fixed income (interest/dividends/pension/Government benefit)
- 22% of the population work 20-40 hours per week
- 56% of the population work 40-70 hours per week
- 18% of the population are employed in retail
- 14% of the population are employed in manufacturing
- 16% of the population are employed in a sales/service

\* National average income \$53,092

# Map of the Thames Ward



## From the Present to 'Future Thames'

Thames is a growing vibrant area, and an amazing place to live, work and play.

The Thames Township is the regional health, service, industrial and retail centre for a number of surrounding rural communities.

Thames people have much to celebrate by being a part of this special area.

People here are passionate about their renowned heritage. This is reflected throughout the town in nationally recognized buildings, tourist attractions and flora & fauna arboretum. The magical landscape of the Kauaeranga Valley is also a major attraction, together with the abundant bird life, fishing, and water sports on the Firth to the picturesque pohutakawa coastline. We also boast an active and diverse arts community together with a plethora of recreational, leisure & sporting activities.

There is such a wide range of interests and passions catered for here in Thames, which more and more people are discovering.

Thames is a warm community, with strong links across many family generations; this combined with the steady influx of new residents ensures that the town is progressive. The town and surrounding area has a resident population, and is not reliant upon an influx of summer tourists for economic success. We have major industry players that provide a strong employment base, complimented by a range of smaller businesses all contributing to positive economic growth.

There is an impressive range of essential services 'on hand' including educational, health (eg local hospital, scheduled for a major upgrade), retail, and professional.

The essence of Thames and its people is the preservation of their culture and heritage, to continue to grow yet retain the small town feel. To capture the passion, and inspire the next generations, as that's where our future really lies.

But then don't take our word for it... these are some of the comments we hear from visitors and locals about our area;

- *A town with 'heart and soul'*
- *It offers a rural environment, but remains accessible to urban life*
- *Magical landscape of sea, land, bush and mountains*
- *Caters to everyone 'across the ages'*
- *Represents nature, and a holistic lifestyle promoting health excellence*
- *A great town, with great people*

***Our future is as rich as the gold that once flowed out of the hills.***