

Report of the Karamea CLDP Hui 5 May 2018



Report of the Karamea Community Hui May 2018

In August 2017 seventy-five members of the Karamea community contributed ideas for improving the wellbeing and sustainability of the Karamea. These ideas form the Karamea Community Plan 2017-2022. This hui is a follow-up to the August hui and it references the contributing ideas in the above plan. Thirty people participated in the May hui.

1. Introduction

Introduction by Peter Moynihan Chair of Karamea Community Incorporated

Our community is a very diverse one with special character
Anyone who chooses to live at the beginning of the road separated from the attractions of urban life by a vast wilderness is unusual
In this day and age the norm is opposite with rural communities shrinking and disappearing whilst cities expand at an ever increasing rate
I think we are fortunate that our isolation and exceptional natural surroundings help us to be a more independent and creative group of people
Karameans are on the endangered species list but if we support each other's creative ideas and initiatives I think we can buck the trend and develop a flourishing sustainable community
If you were to project ahead 20 years based on the last 20 years this community will only be a shadow of what it is today
My hope for today is that a series of steps will be put in place by you to action and progress our communities healthy future developments

Whakatauki for the hui

Ke te kahore he whakakitenga ka ngaro te iwi
Without foresight and vision the people are lost

Purpose of the hui

The hui objective was to develop the 2018-19 Karamea Community Action Plan.

This involved;

- considering all the ideas put forward for the Karamea Community Plan at the August 2017 community hui.
- deciding which ideas will be the focus for the coming year, who will be involved and what support and resources will be required.

Discussion groups

Discussion focused on the contributing ideas under the following goals:

- Economic wellbeing.
- Environmental wellbeing.
- Social and cultural wellbeing.
- Education and learning + Community health and wellbeing.
- Sustainable infrastructure

2. Economic Wellbeing

The following ideas in the Karamea Community Plan are to be carried forward

- Focus on developing the Ōpārara Basin.
- Explore prospects for horticulture, food and beverage enterprises, including the establishment of a commercial kitchen.
- Improve marketing of Karamea, its products and businesses including its branding and packaging.

The Oparara Development is part of the West Coast Regional Growth Study and the WC Economic Development Action Plan 2017. A feasibility study is currently underway which has central Government involvement. The *Untamed Natural Wilderness* brand is part of this plan. One local idea is opening up the Oparara Valley track to mountain biking. However, since the Oparara development is being handled by agencies outside Karamea it was decided this focus was outside the scope of the Karamea CLDP at this point in time.

A core group has been established of those interested in food initiatives. The food branding initiative has a number of elements:

- Product development.
- A Logo, Brand
- Creation of a food centre
- Market research
- Compliance
- Marketing
- A generic tagline

Other contributing ideas were discussed. It was decided that the Westport-Karamea race would to be deferred, as it needs a contact person or champion. Compliance issues also need to be thoroughly researched given the health and safety issues. Expansion of the Saturday Market was also deferred. It was noted that improvements to the Community Building (RSA) might mean that the market's season could be extended. The importance was noted of support for organisers and promotion of having a stall at the market, perhaps through Chronicle articles.

Projects for the Action Plan 2018-19 year

The Oparara Basin

It was agreed that we should await the outcome of the Government's feasibility study. In the meantime we would maintain close communication with the Oparara Valley Trust and other agencies, i.e. MBIE, Development West Coast. The objective is to achieve an equitable balance between infrastructure and the natural environment. The contact person is yet to be determined.

The Karamea Food Centre

The emphasis is on premium quality and our unique location. The aim is to access gourmet food markets in more affluent urban centres (Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Auckland). This project is also awaiting the outcome of a West Coast feasibility study. Ideas for consideration are a commercial kitchen (location to be identified), a cheese processing facility, training programmes, marketing, packaging,

development of a brand. Quality control and compliance also need to be considered. Contact person is Paul Murray.

Marketing Karamea

It was decided that there would be a unified approach to brand development that could be used for all things *Karamea*. An Action Plan on brand development is necessary for progress to be made. This is to include quality control and consider the question of a fee structure.

The contact person is Clive Hellyar.

3. Environmental Wellbeing

The following ideas in the Karamea Community Plan are to be carried forward:

- Establish an Oparara Sanctuary from the Source to the Sea.
- Establish river monitoring and habitat protection practices to ensure species survival.
- Develop and run educational programmes focused on our local landscapes, flora and fauna.
- Establish a recycling centre to reuse materials, e.g. glass.

It was decided that the initial focus would be on the Oparara Source to the Sea Sanctuary and environmental protection around the Oparara river mouth and its reserve. This would encompass a number of the ideas under the environmental wellbeing goal, namely:

- a) Riparian planting. Need to set up a nursery (Diane, Craig Stenhouse of Clean Streams) – land, planting, self-supporting. Need just one farmer who would be happy to start the ball rolling. Land donated by BDC on the Oparara Rd that needs road access and water.
- b) River monitoring and habitat protection. This is already happening and DOC are heavily involved. The Council is monitoring rivers. There are monitoring stations at the dump, above the dump, 1 in the estuary, 1 on ‘a’ river, 1 at Little Wanganui River. The WC Regional Council are doing a minimal amount at the moment. There is a need to collate all the information known so far and find out from the Council what they already know, then develop:
 - Information about where the whitebait spawn.
 - An annual reporting process to the community.

Could we put pressure on Council? How? Petition? It’s noted that Community and Public Health are responsible for monitoring water for human health. Most monitoring is in large bodies of water but small tributaries need to be sampled too. Maybe one person in the community could be trained to take these samples and then publish the results – paid position.

- c) Education programmes focused on local landscapes, flora and fauna. Diane at the school – very slim connection - 2 DOC workers are currently involved. We need someone in Karamea dedicated to following this up. Funding and

resources possibly following the winter school idea. Permaculture courses, skills based. Can you tie into numeracy and literacy? (ACE funding). A lodge built in the Oparara where people can learn about flora and fauna (Mal and the Oparara Valley Trust). Multi-purpose building. Could have speaker on geological formations at the Winter School.

- d) The Karamea Museum wants to replicate the cave experience of the Oparara (presenting the Oparara's origins back 350 million years to Gondwanaland) to present. Retelling the stories in stone in the Oparara – geology, ecology, speleology, natural history etc. This overlaps with the hokioi project.
- e) Establish a recycling centre. China has decided not to take our rubbish. Design and build another shed at the dump for recyclables. Donation of machinery to 'remash' stuff.
- f) Establish an Oparara Source to the Sea Sanctuary. A grant has been received for the pest free area! Yahoo! Using shipping containers for pest control. Guppy's 3-D map is awesome! Galway's and Gibson's farm, up at Fenian, towards the ocean? The wetland is already happening at the Oparara Reserve.

Note: Brian Corner expressed interest in educational programmes and Sylvia Raikes is keen to be involved in horticulture education.

Projects for the Action Plan 2018-19 year

It was decided that the focus would be on the Oparara Sanctuary Source to the sea with Phase 1 over the next 6 months focusing on the Oparara Reserve, The Oparara Wilderness Lodge, pest monitoring and water testing.

The Oparara Reserve at the river mouth

This the 1st phase of the bigger picture. Discussions have been held with DIA re the urgency of addressing this. The funding application needs to cover:

- Rock remediation of the river bank at the river mouth reserve. 60 metres of rock wall is needed by the estuary to ensure species survival. Stories about how this is important – Social, Cultural:
 - Publicity in the Chronicle, Facebook, Website – picture to the Chronicle.
 - Ask Barry, Guppy, Dulcie.
 - To Liz on application, Guppy has budgets.
- Community planting in collaboration with Clean Streams Karamea – contact (Kathy Ramsay? Craig Stenhouse? re support needed). Water, access also needed.
- Infrastructure, e.g picnic table and toilet. Council approval is needed for this.

The Oparara Wilderness Lodge

- This project is in the planning stages and a funding application will be forwarded to the appropriate body at some point - Mal Hansen.

Pest monitoring

- Pest free island - Bob Dickson, DOC Westport.

River water testing

- Contact whoever is testing, compile results for the community.
- Part of the baseline picture for the Oparara.
- School to be involved – Liz to ask the School.
- Put links to the results and resources on the website.

Karamea Museum improvement

- Develop stories of the Oparara's natural history with assistance from Canterbury Museum, Otago University and Te Papa.
- Construct the display replicating the cave experience utilising existing moa and kiwi bones etc.

4. Social and Cultural Wellbeing

The following ideas in the Karamea Community Plan are to be carried forward:

- Establish a loop walking/bike track around the Karamea River and estuary.
- Establish regular community events, e.g. monthly pudding club, quarterly competitions for food and beverages, movie theatre, Xmas drinks on the Market Cross corner.
- Improve facilities at the Oparara Reserve (see Environmental Wellbeing above)
- Improve dissemination of information throughout the community and upgrade the community website.
- Erect a Hokioi Sculpture as a welcome to Karamea.

A bike trail was proposed from Market Cross to just before Virgin Creek, with a swing bridge across the river and then from the Arapito back to Market Cross: Linking up with the estuary reserve or to be able to do a circuit. There would be stops at the Big Rimu Tree and Zig-Zag tracks. Issues to be resolved would be cost of project, location of bridge, Council permission, contractors that could prepare and build. This links to the sustainable infrastructure goal.

There is a developing interest in having regular community events and in having a governing group to coordinate all events – focused on building social capital. There is a desire to improve Karamea Area School's involvement with the community. There are also links to the economic wellbeing initiatives. This initiative aims to combine existing events, events that have been progressed this year, new ideas and revitalization of events in abeyance, e.g.

- Wearable Arts (Arts Council?)
- Christmas in the Park (Karamea Business Assn)
- Food events and competitions (Cheese competition – Diane Anderson and Kathleen Gavigan)
- Harvest Festivals (Feijoa Festival – Sacha, Diane Anderson, Liz Kerlake, Angela Cronin, Nova Scarlett, Kevin Miller)

- Music events and festivals – in Bush Lounge. (Dion and co.). Raramai explained that due to changes to funding the Arts Council can no longer fund these. It now only receives funding for annual the Art Exhibition and the Winter School).
- The Oparara Run (Lynda Pope)
- Movies (Hamish Macbeth has community projector).
- Little Wanganui Beach Day (Tom and Mel Horncastle)
- Dinner/drama production, theatre restaurant.
- Visiting artist programme.

The community website needs to be upgraded and improved. It needs to contain good news stories and pictures (from locals), be regularly updated and have more publishing for interest (results of events). The cost of maintaining it is an issue.

Ideas for improvement are:

- Easier access and usability for all.
- More attractive.
- Daily relevance.
- More visual events and attractions.
- Mobile friendly/images.

Ideas to be progressed:

- Interactive touch screen – pictures or buttons.
- Available on a public display, e.g. 4 Square, Hardware, Information Centre.
- Have clubs and social groups with contact details, especially for newcomers.

The Karamea Museum plans to upgrade its building to provide additional internal spaces, a welcoming area and space for retail goods. It also plans to upgrade its displays related to social and cultural history, e.g. early Polynesian history relating to the Heaphy and Karamea settlements and telling the story of settlement of the Karamea. Emphasising how the European settlement developed in isolation.

Barry Chalmers outlined progress he has made on the proposal to construct a life size bronze of the hokioi at the entrance to Karamea township (no specific location as yet). The goal is to tell the story of the hokioi – the largest eagle that ever flew, through Maori legend, associating the story of hokioi with the Karamea District. This project overlaps with the work of the Karamea Estuary Enhancement Project and the Karamea Museum.

Projects for the Action Plan 2018-19 year

Bike trail

- Seek level of interest in the community (e.g. via community web survey).
- Seek others interested in being involved. Sylvia Raikes and Hannah Lessells to action. Aaron Cross may be interested.
- Do preliminary planning including land usage and ownership.

Contact person is Sylvia Raikes.

Regular community events

- This is at the stage of developing interest. Seek people to be involved and coordinators through the community website.
- Form a governing group.
- Contact person: Lynda Pope?

Improving the community website

- KLDP to take a coordination role.
- Obtain funding for the website development. Also need funding for monitoring and maintaining the website.
- Seek and contract a website developer.

Improvement of the Karamea Museum

- Develop a costing for the Museum upgrade and source funding.
- Upgrade facilities by improving the entrance to the building, replacing the door with bi-fold doors and placing these at the front of the building to enclose the foyer space.
- Continue discussions with key agencies.
- Upgrade the displays to tell our stories.

Hokioi

- Find a suitable material for the sculpture and finance.

5. Sustainable Infrastructure

The following ideas in the Karamea Community Plan are to be carried forward:

- Develop Market Cross as the heart/hub of the community (Stage 1 of the Town and Country Plan). Implementation of this project is underway so it was not discussed at the hui.
- Improve and develop walking and cycling opportunities.
- Upgrade the Karamea Aerodrome.

Two possibilities were discussed for improving cycle and walking opportunities:

- A coastal cycle way from Little Wanganui to Gentle Annie.
- A safe walking lane from Karamea township to the Aerodrome and Flagstaff Beach. This currently requires pedestrians to walk on the road and this is not safe especially near Quinlan's Bridge when the sun is in motorists' eyes. This walking lane could tie in with the KEEP track at the Karamea Estuary.

It was noted that the Karamea Aerodrome Committee is working on an upgrade. It would be good to touch base and find out what is planned/underway.

Project for the Action Plan 2018-19 year

A group has been formed to investigate the walking lane and cycle way:

- Mal is going to discuss with WCRC to identify the legal access and issues involved. Val will approach the Aerodrome Committee for an update on their plans and ask if the CDLP/KCI can assist in any way. They will feedback to the group (Peter and Val Moynihan, Mal Hansen, Ron Miedema).
- If the cycle/walk ways look possible discussions/consultations will be held with Iwi, BDC, WCRC, DOC, other Buller cycle way groups, landowners. Pete has spoken to most landowners re the walking lane.
- Draw up a plan and obtain written approval of landowners.

Contact person: Mal Hansen

6. Education and learning & Community Health and Wellbeing

The following idea in the Karamea Community Plan is to be carried forward:

- Establish community gardens and growing spaces for food, reflection, relaxation and knowledge sharing.

It is envisaged that this would not be a community garden with individual plots for gardeners. Rather it would be focused on education, knowledge sharing and learning as well as community health and wellbeing. It has the potential to connect all the ideas under these goals and it would link with other project initiatives such as the Karamea Food Centre and Museum initiative by way of knowledge transfer about what grows where (heritage fruit and vegetables). It is seen as a connecting project – see flip chart below. It links wellbeing and knowledge. Can have edible landscapes, can look at what grows best here – sharing this knowledge.

Project for the Action Plan 2018-19 year

- Establish a group to consider how this could be set up, where it might be located, size, legal issues, what it would do, the types of gardens it would have, how it could link with other activities and projects (e.g. riparian planting), funding and the potential for a paid facilitator, ownership/volunteers/flexibility, users (people may not have a garden)
- Identify the resources required and how it could be supported and sustained.

Contact person: Kevin Miller

7. Next Steps

Hui participants were asked if KCI could improve their communication in any way. Participants asked what would happen if a new project and group started up during the coming year.

Communication

It was agreed that a wide range of channels would be used for communication, i.e. Facebook, the Chronicle, the Information Centre, Karamea website, Global Gypsy window.

KCI will develop a list of project contact people and their emails and they will put advanced notice of their meetings on the website so that people can attend if they wish.

Emerging projects

This is a community-led development programme and it is open to everyone to get involved. Any person or group with an idea can set up a project group to put it into action and they can join the programme at any stage.

The Karamea Community Plan 2017-22 and the Karamea Community Action Plan 2018-19 are living documents that are updated when necessary.

Any projects that are in line with the goals in these plans will be incorporated into the plan.

Review of the Plans

These plans will be reviewed again at a hui in May 2019. An action plan will then be developed for the 2019-2020 year.

Kathleen Gavigan
Hui Facilitator
14 May 2018



