

RAKAIA COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009

'THE SALMON CAPITAL OF NEW ZEALAND'

WELCOME TO THE 2009 RAKAIA COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN.

The Rakaia Strategic Plan has been developed as a joint initiative of the Rakaia Community Association, Ashburton District Council and the Rakaia community and is a 'blueprint' for the town's direction and development over the next ten years.

Rakaia is the northern gateway to Ashburton District. It is also the fastest growing area of the district. The Rakaia community has recognised the benefits sustainable growth can bring to their community and this is a strong underlying theme woven throughout this plan.

Through this plan, Rakaia has identified the goals and objectives the community aims to achieve in the coming decade; recreation, safety and transport, protecting the natural environment and building on the town's local economy are the key issues for the community to focus on and work together to accomplish.

Rakaia is a strong community of people who have a cooperative spirit and get involved for the greater benefit of the community. It is this sense of community spirit and passion which will enable Rakaia to achieve its future ambitions.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the development of this plan and thank you for your time and ideas. We encourage you to continue to contribute and offer your support for the plan to realise the goals and actions it sets out.



Neil Pluck: Chairman
Rakaia Community Association



Mayor: Bede O'Malley
Ashburton District Council



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Ashburton District Tourism
Judy Moore
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

Rakaia has identified the following goals and objectives for the future development of their community. Over the next ten years Rakaia is aiming to be;

1. A well informed and coordinated community that encourages input and participation

- The Rakaia community is effectively represented
- Our community is engaged in decision-making through effective communication
- We are a community of volunteers

2. An attractive town for people to live, work and play

- We are proud of our town's appearance
- Our heritage places, buildings and trees are protected
- Rakaia has a strong sense of community spirit

3. A vibrant and supported business community

- Rakaia has a strong, growing local economy
- Rakaia offers great opportunities for businesses
- We cater for the diverse needs of visitors travelling to, or through, Rakaia

4. A safe and accessible community that cares for the wellbeing of its residents

- Rakaia community's transport options are not restricted by State Highway One
- We are a welcoming and inclusive community
- Our community's wellbeing needs are met

5. A well managed and accessible natural environment

- We enjoy and respect our natural riverbed environment
- Rakaia is leading the district in being 'clean and green'
- Our open spaces are valued by residents and visitors

6. A community with a diverse range of recreation opportunities

- Rakaia's sporting activities are well managed and co-ordinated
- Our community's recreation needs are met



INTRODUCTION

WHY WE NEED A STRATEGY?

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a guide for progress in Rakaia over the next ten years.

The initial Rakaia Community Strategic Plan was developed in 2000/01 by the Rakaia community in a process facilitated by Ashburton District Council. The plan has been the catalyst for much change in Rakaia and has, by any standards, been a resounding success. It has provided the Rakaia community, Ashburton District Council and other key stakeholders with a structure and focus for developing the Rakaia area in the ways the community identified from the outset of the plan.

Most of the actions identified in that first strategic plan are now complete, or a long way towards being complete. Now is the right time then to review that Plan; to confirm that the underlying themes in the plan remain relevant, and to develop a new set of actions to guide the progress of Rakaia over the next five to ten years.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The process to update the Plan and to review and establish new goals and actions was agreed upon between the Rakaia Community Association and Ashburton District Council.

The information and ideas that have guided the review of the Plan were gathered from the community through two open community workshops, a small group working party and a four week consultation period. The community workshops were facilitated by an independent facilitator, Mr Richard Budd, who was supported by Ashburton District Council staff from the community planning team.

The workshops were well attended with over 40 residents from a cross-section of the community attending each one. The attendees were asked to work in both small and large groups to complete a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of Rakaia as well as an assessment of the goals from the 2001 Strategic Plan. This process generated group discussion on aspirations for the future with this information forming the basis of the revised Plan and the goals within it.

At the second workshop attendees were asked to confirm the goals and brainstorm action points for each goal. These action points led to the development of aspirational objectives for each goal which were confirmed with a small representative group of the community before the plan went out for consultation.

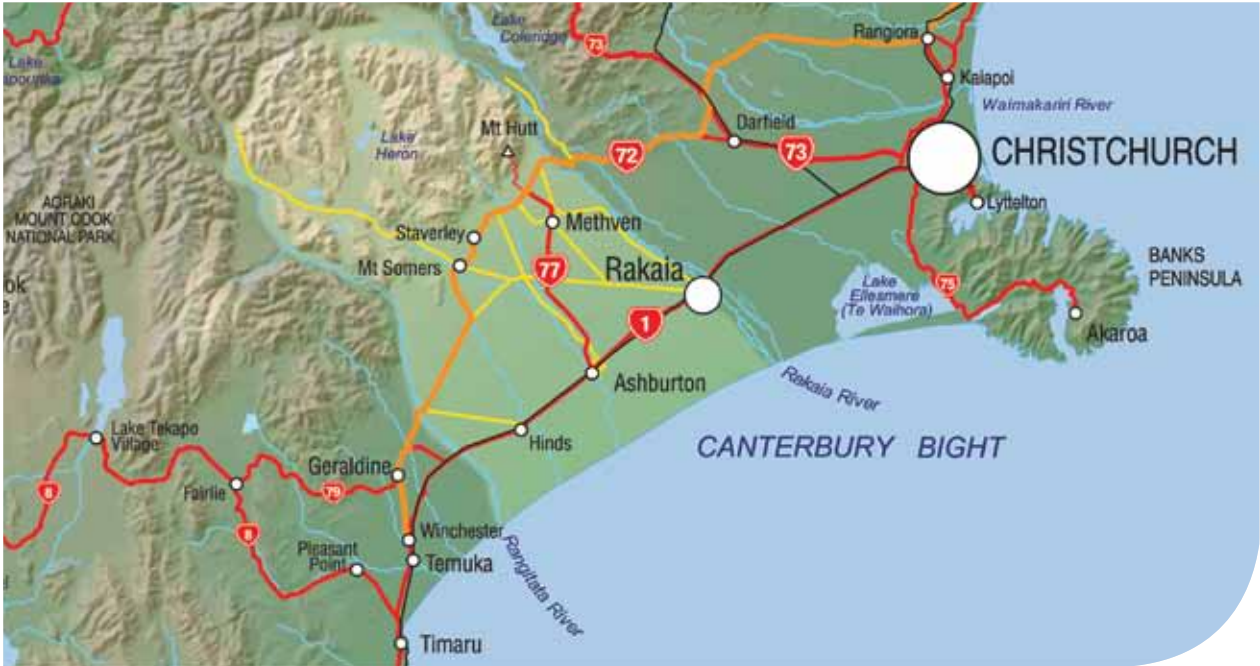
To engage the youth of Rakaia, discussions were held with local intermediate and secondary school students on the school buses in the week preceding the first community workshop. Students were asked what they did or did not like about Rakaia, and what they would like to see for the future of the town. Results from this exercise were incorporated into the SWOT analysis findings.



Workshop One Attendees, Rakaia Rugby Clubrooms, November 2008

RAKAIA

Rakaia is located on the south bank of the Rakaia River in the Ashburton District. The community is the third largest in the district (estimated population 1,140 in 2008) and is situated on the northern boundary of the district on State Highway One.



Map of Ashburton District

Rakaia is renowned as being the salmon fishing capital of New Zealand, and the wide braided river bed (unique to the South Island) offers some of the best jet boating opportunities in the world.

Rakaia township is within a comfortable commuting distance to Christchurch. This has the potential to change Rakaia in a number of ways, as people wanting to enjoy a rural lifestyle while working in the city can do so.

RAKAIA COMMUNITY

Rakaia is experiencing a period of changing demographics. The current population is estimated at 1140 (2008). Between 1996 and 2006 Rakaia grew by over a third, giving it the fastest growth rate in Ashburton District. Statistics New Zealand projections are that by 2031 the population will be around 1,300, however based on past population growth it is expected Rakaia will surpass these projections.

Like the rest of New Zealand, Rakaia is facing the effects of an ageing population. Current trends indicate the population is set to age significantly over the next twenty years. The present median age is 43 years and by 2031 it is projected to be 51 years; higher than both the district and national projection of 47 and 41 years respectively. Continued growth, however, is likely to see more young families moving to the town, reversing this trend to some extent.

The rapid population growth being experienced in Rakaia, coupled with a changing community means it is important that facilities, services and planned growth meet the needs of the community both now and in the future.

Rakaia is a community with a strong sense of community spirit. The hard work and dedication of volunteers means it is an independent community. A popular line of thought for Rakaia is that every dollar spent on the community is effectively tripled in value due to the effort and dedication of those involved.

Like any small rural community though, there are current and future challenges to be faced.

CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Current and future challenges and opportunities faced by the Rakaia community were identified through a Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis at the community workshops. These have been categorised into the following areas.

Managing Population Growth

Rakaia was the fastest growing area of the Ashburton District from 1996-2006, with the population increasing by a third in this time. Growth of the community benefits the local economy and can be a driver for diversifying the range of facilities and services available locally, which in turn enhances the community's quality of life. With forward thinking and good planning, Rakaia will be able to prepare for and thrive on a growing population. Sustainable growth is an underlying theme throughout this Plan; therefore it affects all goals.

Getting Involved

Rakaia is a community of 'do-ers', and as such is a self-reliant and capable community. However, changes in the community's demography (such as an ageing and growing population) have raised questions about the long term sustainability of relying on current volunteers. Retaining a strong pool of people willing and able to contribute their time, energy and ideas to the community is an important issue for the community to address.

Having a Community Voice

Rakaia has a strong sense of community spirit and, like many other small rural communities, relies on a co-ordinated voice to represent their interests in Council decision making. This is a role the Rakaia Community Association has taken up on behalf of residents. In a growing and changing community, the challenge for the future is to ensure that Rakaia is a united community effectively represented, and that community members are well informed and involved in the development of Rakaia.

Our Town's Appearance

Having a visually appealing town plays an important role in attracting visitors and new residents to any community. A great deal has been achieved in Rakaia by the Town Beautification group established through the last Strategic Plan in 2001, and their efforts are recognised for the significant results they have achieved.

Rakaia has recognised that ensuring their town is an attractive place in which to live, work and play will require ongoing work and has suggested that the Town Beautification group needs to be resurrected to lead the ongoing development of the streetscapes of Rakaia into the future.



The Rakaia community values its local heritage and historic places. Opportunities exist for the community to identify historic features worthy of protection and to address maintenance and protection rules through the District Plan review process currently being undertaken by Council.

Maintaining a Strong Economy

The importance of ensuring a strong and vibrant local economy has been recognised by the Rakaia community. The largest employers in the wider area are the agriculture and wholesale trade sectors, while the town has a strong agricultural services sector. The community is keen to ensure Rakaia remains an attractive location for new and existing businesses, and that growing opportunities for employment are available. The business community also recognises the value in working together when possible to improve outcomes for all.

Offering an Attractive Lifestyle

Rakaia prides itself on offering residents a desirable lifestyle. The core of the community's needs, including healthcare, emergency services and education are well catered for within the town. Future expansion of such services is important to provide for the growing needs of the community.

Opportunities exist to improve community safety through reduced speed limits and alternative crossing mechanisms on State Highway One.

Facilities and services within the town are generally in walking distance and easily accessible. The community would, however, like to improve transport options between Rakaia and Ashburton and Christchurch to cater for the needs of residents which cannot be met within Rakaia.

Protecting Our Environment

Living in a pristine natural environment offers Rakaia residents a quality of life second to none. Rakaia is proud of its natural environment and the environmental services and facilities available to residents, such as the Resource Recovery Park. Ensuring the ongoing protection and management of the natural areas in and around Rakaia, while still maintaining access, is a significant challenge for the future of Rakaia.

Sport and Recreation for all

Recreation and sports facilities and pursuits are an attraction Rakaia offers both residents and visitors. Strengths of the recreation opportunities available in and around Rakaia are largely focused on sport and outdoor recreation, such as the Rakaia Domain, the Rakaia Swimming Pool and the new Rakaia River Terrace Walkway. The community is keen to explore new recreation opportunities, such as a shared sports clubroom facility in the Rakaia Domain to provide for future community needs.



Salmon Tales Complex, 2008

GOAL ONE

A WELL INFORMED AND COORDINATED COMMUNITY THAT ENCOURAGES INPUT AND PARTICIPATION

Rakaia is a self-reliant community with volunteers involved in many different capacities throughout the community. Opportunities exist to increase volunteer numbers to ensure the provision of services in Rakaia is maintained and enhanced.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL



THE RAKAIA COMMUNITY IS EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTED

1. The relationships between Council, government agencies and the Rakaia Community Association continue to be strengthened and focus on ways in which the interests of the Rakaia community can be advanced
2. The Rakaia Community Association represents both the urban and rural community of Rakaia and its decision-making reflects this



OUR COMMUNITY IS ENGAGED IN DECISION-MAKING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

1. The Rakaia News continues to develop as the “voice of the community” through community involvement and the investigation of new initiatives
2. Alternative communication technologies, such as a community-groups database and web-based options, are investigated and utilised where appropriate
3. Rakaia’s community groups, clubs and organisations are connected and communicate effectively with each other
4. Council works with the Rakaia community to identify priorities for ongoing infrastructure development and maintenance in the town
5. The views of youth on wider community issues are sought and reflected in decision-making



The Rakaia Community Association represents both the urban and rural community and are the main link between the community and Council. The association advocates on behalf of the community and ensures the interests of Rakaia are represented both locally and nationally. It is important the community has a strong and effective voice.



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS

1. The Rakaia Community Association helps local groups and organisations attract and retain volunteers by raising the profile of volunteering in Rakaia
2. Our community values volunteers and acknowledges the important role they play (including the Rakaia Lions Volunteer of the Year award)



STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ashburton District Council
- Central Government Agencies
- Community groups and organisation
- Greater Rakaia Community
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Lions
- Rakaia News
- Rakaia Primary School
- Southern Gateway Tourism Ltd
- Volunteering New Zealand





GOAL TWO

AN ATTRACTIVE TOWN FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Over the last ten years significant progress has been made in improving the appearance of Rakaia. It is recognised that ensuring the town continues to be an attractive place to live, work and play will require ongoing beautification work and it is suggested that the Rakaia Town Beautification group needs to be resurrected to lead Rakaia into the future.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

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WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TOWN'S APPEARANCE

1. The Rakaia community resurrects the 'Town Beautification' group
2. Our group develops a ten-year beautification plan with Council and wider community input
3. The Town Beautification group and the Rakaia community implements the beautification plan

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OUR HERITAGE PLACES, BUILDINGS AND TREES ARE PROTECTED

1. Our community ensures that all heritage items worthy of protecting are included in the District Plan
2. The Rakaia community has input into the protection and maintenance rules of heritage items in the District Plan review
3. The Rakaia historic precinct continues to be established and developed



RAKAIA HAS A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

1. Our community successes are acknowledged and celebrated
2. The Rakaia community maintains its reputation for running quality events and activities. Events such as the Rakaia River Salmon Fishing Competition and the Annual Fireworks Celebration are future-proofed



STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ashburton District Council
- Ashburton District Tourism
- Community groups and organisations
- Greater Rakaia Community
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust
- Rakaia Beautification Group
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Garden Club
- Rakaia History Group
- Rakaia Lions
- Rakaia Reserves Board
- Rakaia River Fishing Promotions Group



GOAL THREE

A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTED BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The community is keen to ensure that Rakaia remains an attractive location for new and existing businesses, and that opportunities for growing employment, especially for youth, are available. The business community also recognises the value in working together where possible to help build a strong local economy and contribute to enhancing the Rakaia lifestyle.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL



RAKAIA HAS A STRONG, GROWING LOCAL ECONOMY

1. As a community we continue, and seek innovative ways, to support local urban and rural businesses, who in return support our local organisations
2. The Rakaia business community promotes local jobs for local people where possible



RAKAIA OFFERS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

1. Our community, along with Council, advocates for the needs of new businesses
2. Business opportunities in Rakaia are promoted locally and nationally
3. Our business sector is well connected and meets to discuss specific issues of concern



WE CATER FOR THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF VISITORS TRAVELLING TO, OR THROUGH, RAKAIA

1. Our local tourism businesses establish a Rakaia Tourism Group to link with Ashburton District's Visitor Strategy
2. The Rakaia Visitor Centre is adequately resourced and recognised as a gateway to the district
3. We make visitors welcome and look to provide for travellers needs in ways that encourages them to stop and visit Rakaia
4. Visitors to Rakaia have access to information about recycling facilities and other ways they can contribute to keeping Rakaia clean and green



STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ashburton District Council
- Ashburton District Tourism
- Greater Rakaia Community
- Grow Mid Canterbury
- Local Businesses
- Local groups and organisations
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Resource Recovery Park
- Rakaia Tourism Group
- Southern Gateway Tourism Limited



GOAL FOUR

A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY THAT CARES FOR THE WELLBEING OF ITS RESIDENTS

The safety of our residents and visitors is paramount. Opportunities exist to improve people's safety when travelling in and around Rakaia. Being safe, healthy and able to access services and facilities to meet our needs are important aspects for our community's social wellbeing. We can achieve a caring community by ensuring safe and inclusive access to all areas of Rakaia.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL



RAKAIA COMMUNITY'S TRANSPORT OPTIONS ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY STATE HIGHWAY ONE

1. The Rakaia community advocates for the lowering of the State Highway One speed limit through the Rakaia township
2. A pedestrian underpass is constructed to cross State Highway One, linking the east and west sides of Rakaia
3. Parking and stopping restrictions are introduced on State Highway One to improve pedestrian safety and driver visibility
4. The community and Council advocates for safe traffic movement (including walking and cycling) on the Rakaia Bridge



WE ARE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

1. Community transport options are investigated and implemented if considered beneficial and affordable
2. Our community advocates for ease of access to community facilities and services for the disabled and elderly
3. We ensure new residents and new migrants are welcome, safe, secure and become integral valued members of our community



OUR COMMUNITY'S WELLBEING NEEDS ARE MET

1. Our community advocates for the development of flat and unit type housing for the 'over 60's' in Rakaia
2. Relationships are built with key organisations to ensure health care provision in the community continues to meet residents needs



STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Access Home Health Care
- Age Concern
- Ashburton District Council
- Ashburton Safer Community Council
- Ashburton Senior Citizens
- Canterbury District Health Board
- CCS
- Central Government Agencies
- Community groups and organisations
- Disabled Persons Assembly
- Environment Canterbury
- Greater Rakaia Community
- Grey Power
- Local businesses
- Newcomers Network Mid Canterbury
- New Zealand Police
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Presbyterian Support Services
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Lions
- Rakaia Medical Centre Trust
- Rakaia Primary School
- Rural Canterbury Health Care Organisation





GOAL FIVE

A WELL MANAGED AND ACCESSIBLE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Living in a fantastic open space offers residents a quality of life second to none. Rakaia is proud of its natural environment and the environmental services and facilities available to residents, such as the Rakaia Domain, the River Terrace Walkway and the Rakaia Resource Recovery Park. Ensuring the ongoing protection and management of the natural areas in and around Rakaia, while still maintaining access, is a significant challenge for Rakaia to ensure the quality of life for future generations to come.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

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WE ENJOY AND RESPECT OUR NATURAL RIVERBED ENVIRONMENT

1. Our community ensures the riverbed area continues to be accessible for a variety of recreation uses
2. Access to the Rakaia riverbed is respected and valued by all users

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RAKAIA IS LEADING THE DISTRICT IN BEING 'CLEAN AND GREEN'

1. Our community has pride in its clean green image and we work to have this recognised nationally
2. The resource recovery park is well sign-posted and used by all in our community, including visitors to Rakaia
3. Our business community promotes being clean and green through the use of environmentally friendly options



OUR OPEN SPACES ARE VALUED BY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

1. A detailed project plan for the Rakaia River Terrace Walkway, with identified stages and target completion dates, is developed and implemented
2. Our community and Council work together to ensure the Rakaia Cemetery is an attractive place to preserve the social history of the area
3. Our parks, playgrounds and open spaces retain their special character and are maintained to a high standard



STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ashburton District Council
- Central Government Agencies
- Community groups and organisations
- Community and Probation Services
- Department of Conservation
- Environment Canterbury
- Fish & Game New Zealand
- Forest and Bird Society
- Greater Rakaia Community
- Local Businesses
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Reserves Board
- Rakaia Resource Recovery Park
- Rakaia River Fishing Promotions
- Rakaia River Terrace Walkway Group



GOAL SIX

A COMMUNITY WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Rakaia boasts an enviable range of recreation opportunities. These include the Rakaia Domain, the Rakaia Swimming Pool, the Rakaia Community Memorial Hall and the new Rakaia River Terrace Walkway. Rakaia is fortunate to be located in a pristine natural environment, which is enjoyed by the community and is an attraction for both new residents and visitors to the area. The community is keen to explore new recreation opportunities, such as a shared sports clubroom facility in the Rakaia Domain to provide for future community needs.

OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

RAKAIA'S SPORTING ACTIVITIES ARE WELL MANAGED AND CO-ORDINATED

1. Our sport and recreation organisations identify opportunities to work together when the need / opportunity arises
2. Rakaia sport and recreation organisations investigate the feasibility of a shared clubroom facility in the Rakaia Domain

OUR COMMUNITY'S RECREATION NEEDS ARE MET

1. Our community supports the Rakaia Library and will investigate options for increasing usage
2. We encourage and support new leisure opportunities in the community
3. The Rakaia community works to ensure the future sustainability of the community pool
4. Our community works with our young people to identify recreation opportunities that meet the needs of Rakaia youth





STAKEHOLDERS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- Ashburton District Council
- Central Government Agencies (such as ACC)
- Community groups and organisations
- Greater Rakaia Community
- Rakaia Community Association
- Rakaia Library Committee
- Rakaia Medical Centre Trust
- Rakaia News
- Rakaia Swimming Pool Committee
- Rakaia Primary School
- Rakaia Reserves Board
- Sport Mid Canterbury



APPENDIX I – HOW WE WILL MEASURE PROGRESS

The following tables identify targets to measure the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives identified in the plan. As progress is made towards achieving the goals and objectives it is expected that the plan will naturally evolve. This plan will be reviewed in three years to track and monitor progress towards achieving the outlined goals and alter the targets where necessary.

GOAL ONE: A WELL INFORMED AND COORDINATED COMMUNITY THAT ENCOURAGES INPUT AND PARTICIPATION



THE RAKAIA COMMUNITY IS EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTED.

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationships between Council, government agencies and the Rakaia Community Association continue to be strengthened and focus on ways in which the interest of the Rakaia community can be advanced 	<p>Elected representatives (both at local and central government level) advocate on behalf of the Rakaia community</p> <p>Our member of parliament continues to proactively work for the Rakaia community (for example the MP column in the Rakaia News)</p> <p>All parties are satisfied with their working relationships</p> <p>The community is empowered to approach central government directly as and when needed</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Central government agencies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia Community Association represents both the urban and rural community of Rakaia and its decision-making reflects this 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association represents both the urban and rural Rakaia area</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association Greater Rakaia community</p>



OUR COMMUNITY IS ENGAGED IN DECISION-MAKING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia News continues to develop as the 'voice of the community' through community involvement and the investigation of new initiatives 	<p>Annual review of the Rakaia News to identify areas for new initiatives and content</p> <p>Report back findings annually to the Rakaia Community Association</p>	<p>Rakaia News; Greater Rakaia community; local groups and organisations; Rakaia Community Association</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative communication technologies, such as a community groups database and web-based options, are investigated and utilised where appropriate 	<p>Community database is compiled and widely available by December 2010</p> <p>Rakaia Website is upgraded and by 2012</p> <p>Advances in communication technology are continually investigated and used by the community when appropriate</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association, Greater Rakaia community, Local groups and organisations, Rakaia News, Southern Gateway Tourism Ltd</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rakaia's community groups, clubs and organisations are connected and communicate effectively with each other 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council works with the Rakaia community to identify priorities for ongoing infrastructure development and maintenance in the town 	<p>Council keeps the Rakaia community involved from an early stage with planned infrastructure upgrades and development</p>	<p>Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Community Association</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The views of youth on wider community issues are sought and reflected in decision-making 	<p>Rakaia Community Association seeks view from youth on community issues by meeting with school groups, having bus-chats etc as needed</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association, Rakaia Primary School, Ashburton District Council, Rakaia News, greater Rakaia community</p>



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia Community Association helps local groups and organisations attract and retain volunteers by raising the profile of volunteering in Rakaia 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association works with Volunteering New Zealand to investigate ways to assist local groups and organisations in attracting and retaining volunteers, such as running workshops</p> <p>Rakaia Community Association oversees a register of local organisations requiring volunteers and informs the community of volunteer opportunities</p> <p>Volunteer statistics from Census data shows an ongoing increase in community volunteering from 2006 results</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association, Greater Rakaia community; Local groups and organisations; Rakaia News; Volunteering New Zealand</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community values volunteers and acknowledges the important role they play (including the Rakaia Lions Volunteer of the Year award) 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association and Rakaia Lions co-ordinate an annual event recognising the contribution of volunteers during Volunteer New Zealand's Awareness Week</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association with the Rakaia Lions</p>

GOAL TWO: AN ATTRACTIVE TOWN FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TOWN'S APPEARANCE

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia community resurrects the 'Town Beautification Group' 	<p>The Rakaia Beautification Group is formed by December 2009</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Garden Club</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our group develops a ten-year beautification plan with Council and wider community input 	<p>The Beautification Group consults with the wider community for input on the plan for example through a public meeting, questionnaire / survey (investigate a wall mural on the ATS wall)</p> <p>A Rakaia Beautification Plan is developed by December 2010</p> <p>Plan endorsed by the Rakaia Community Association</p>	<p>Rakaia Beautification Group, Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Community Association, Rakaia Garden Club, Rakaia Reserves Board</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Beautification group and the Rakaia community implements the beautification plan 	<p>Plan initiated by 2011</p>	

OUR HERITAGE PLACES, BUILDINGS AND TREES ARE PROTECTED

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community ensures that all heritage items, worthy of protecting, are included in the District Plan 	<p>The Rakaia community is involved in the District Plan review process</p>	<p>Rakaia History Group: Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; New Zealand Historic Places Trust; Rakaia Community Association</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia community has input into the protection and maintenance rules of heritage items in the District Plan review 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia historic precinct continues to be established and developed 	<p>Work on the historic precinct is commissioned by November 2009 and completed by 2011</p>	



RAKAIA HAS A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community successes are acknowledged and celebrated 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association acknowledges and celebrates the success of individuals, groups and events through the Rakaia News</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Ashburton District Tourism; Greater Rakaia community; Local groups and organisations; Rakaia Lions; Rakaia River Fishing Promotions Group</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia community maintains its reputation for running quality events and activities. Events such as the Rakaia River Salmon Fishing Competition and the Annual Fireworks Celebration are future-proofed 	<p>Ashburton District Tourism promote and support Rakaia events that attract visitors to the district</p> <p>Community groups running events ensure that co-ordinating roles are easily transferable to others – including developing job descriptions</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Ashburton District Tourism; Greater Rakaia community; Local groups and organisations; Rakaia Lions; Rakaia River Fishing Promotions Group</p>

GOAL THREE: A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTED BUSINESS COMMUNITY

RAKAIA HAS A STRONG, GROWING LOCAL ECONOMY

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a community we continue, and seek innovative ways to support local urban and rural businesses, who in return support local organisations 	<p>Local businesses and local organisations continue to support one another</p> <p>Maintain, and where possible increase, the number of businesses and employees from 2008 results (Statistics New Zealand – Business Framework Data)</p>	<p>Local businesses; Greater Rakaia community; Grow Mid Canterbury; Local clubs and organisations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia business community promotes local jobs for local people where possible 		

RAKAIA OFFERS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community, along with Council, advocates for the needs of new businesses 	<p>Maintain, and where possible increase, the number of businesses and employees from 2008 results (Statistics New Zealand – Business Framework Data)</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; Grow Mid Canterbury; Local businesses</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business opportunities in Rakaia are promoted locally and nationally 	<p>Grow Mid Canterbury promotes Rakaia in innovative ways as an outstanding place to do business</p>	<p>Grow Mid Canterbury; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; Local businesses, Rakaia Community Association,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our business sector is well connected and meets to discuss specific issues of concern 	<p>Rakaia Community Association brings together local stakeholders to discuss issues of concern when required</p>	<p>Local businesses, Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; Grow Mid Canterbury; Local businesses; Rakaia Community Association</p>



WE CATER FOR THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF VISITORS TRAVELLING TO, OR THROUGH, RAKAIA

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our local tourism businesses establish a Rakaia Tourism Group to link in with Ashburton District's Visitor Strategy 	<p>A Rakaia Tourism Group is formed by the end of 2009</p> <p>The group identifies actions that contribute towards achieving the goals of the District Visitor Strategy</p>	<p>Local tourism businesses; Ashburton District Council; Ashburton District Tourism; Rakaia Community Association</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia visitor centre is adequately resourced and recognised as a gateway to the district 	<p>The Rakaia visitor centre is a site of quality information for visitors</p> <p>The Rakaia visitor centre is recognised as a gateway to the district</p>	<p>Ashburton District Tourism; Ashburton District Council; Rakaia Community Association, Southern Gateway Tourism Ltd, Local businesses</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We make visitors welcome, and look to provide for travellers needs in ways that encourages them to stop and visit Rakaia 	<p>Directional signage for public toilets, resource recovery park and camping sites is erected by 2010</p> <p>Information for visitors on recycling facilities is supplied at key locations including local accommodation providers by 2012</p>	<p>Ashburton District Council; Ashburton District Tourism; Local businesses; Rakaia Community Association; Southern Gateway Tourism Ltd</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors to Rakaia have access to information about recycling facilities and other ways they can contribute to keeping Rakaia clean and green 	<p>24 hour access to a recycling drop-off point for residents and visitors is available by 2012</p>	<p>Rakaia Resource Recovery Park; Ashburton District Council; Ashburton District Tourism; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Community Association; Rakaia Tourism Group</p>

GOAL FOUR: A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY THAT CARES FOR THE WELLBEING OF ITS RESIDENTS

RAKAIA COMMUNITY'S TRANSPORT OPTIONS ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY STATE HIGHWAY ONE

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia community advocates for the lowering of the State Highway One speed limit through the Rakaia township 	<p>The State Highway One speed limit is lowered through Rakaia by 2011</p> <p>Pedestrian refuges are installed on State Highway 1 by July 2010</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; New Zealand Police; New Zealand Transport Agency</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pedestrian underpass is constructed to cross State Highway One, linking the east and west sides of Rakaia 	<p>The pedestrian underpass is commissioned by June 2012</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; New Zealand Police; New Zealand Transport Agency; Rakaia Primary School</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking and stopping restrictions are introduced on State Highway One to improve pedestrian safety and driver visibility 	<p>Parking and stopping restrictions implemented by June 2011</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community; New Zealand Police; New Zealand Transport Agency</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community and Council advocates for safe traffic movement (including walking and cycling) on the Rakaia Bridge 	<p>Safety improvements for walking and cycling on the Rakaia Bridge by 2019</p> <p>The speed limit is lowered to 80km per hour from Rakaia past the rail overbridge by 2019</p>	

WE ARE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community transport options are investigated and implemented if considered beneficial and affordable 	<p>Investigations complete by December 2010</p> <p>If feasible, a community vehicle is in operation by December 2011</p>	<p>Rakaia Lions; Environment Canterbury; Greater Rakaia community; Local businesses; Local clubs and organisations; Rakaia Community Association; Rakaia Medical Centre Trust; Rakaia Primary School</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community advocates for ease of access to community facilities and services for the disabled and the elderly 	<p>The Rakaia community engages in the District Plan review in 2009/10 advocating that future development of the Rakaia town centre remains compact and central for ease of access between services</p>	<p>Disabled Persons Assembly; Age Concern; Ashburton District Council; Ashburton Senior Citizens; CCS; Grey Power; Presbyterian Support; Rakaia Medical Centre Trust</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We ensure new residents and new migrants are welcome, safe, secure and become integral valued members of our community 	<p>Implement actions to compliment the Social Wellbeing Strategy as identified in the Newcomers Research</p>	<p>Newcomers Network Mid Canterbury; Ashburton District Council; Central government agencies; Greater Rakaia community; Local clubs and organisations; Local businesses; Safer Community Council</p>

OUR COMMUNITY'S WELLBEING NEEDS ARE MET

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community advocates for the development of flat and unit type housing for the over 60's in Rakaia 	<p>The Rakaia community engages in the District Plan review in 2009/ 10 regarding residential density and unit titles to enable development of modern elderly persons housing units to be viable</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; local businesses</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships are built with key organisations to ensure health care provision in the community continues to meet residents needs 	<p>Council's annual residents survey shows an increase from 2008 in Eastern Ward residents satisfaction with health services</p> <p>Increase the number of District Nurse hours for residents in Rakaia</p>	<p>Rakaia Medical Centre Trust; Access Home Health; Ashburton District Council; Canterbury District Health Board; Rural Canterbury Primary Health Organisation</p>

GOAL FIVE: A WELL MANAGED AND ACCESSIBLE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



WE ENJOY AND RESPECT OUR NATURAL RIVERBED ENVIRONMENT

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community ensures the riverbed area continues to be accessible for a variety of recreation uses 	Improved directional access and information signs (including where to go for optimal recreation opportunities) to the Rakaia Riverbed are installed by 2011	Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Environment Canterbury; Fish and Game New Zealand; Forest and Bird; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia River Fishing Promotions, Local groups and organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Rakaia riverbed is respected and valued by all users 	Illegal dumping of rubbish in the Rakaia riverbed decreases towards zero through education, installation of access barriers and Council enforcement of litter bylaws	



RAKAIA IS LEADING THE DISTRICT IN BEING 'CLEAN AND GREEN'

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community has pride in its clean green image and we work to have this recognised nationally 	Investigate 'green' awards and work towards meeting such criteria Rakaia begins working towards Green Globe accreditation or similar by 2012 with an aim to complete by 2019 Increased rubbish / recycling bins are located throughout the town by 2016	Rakaia Community Association; Greater Rakaia community; Local businesses; Local groups and organisations; Rakaia Resource Recovery Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resource recovery park is well sign-posted and used by all in our community, including visitors to Rakaia 	Directional signage to the RRRP is improved by 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our business community promotes being clean and green through the use of environmentally friendly options 	Rakaia becomes a plastic-bag free community by 2015	Local businesses; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Community Association



OUR OPEN SPACES ARE VALUED BY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed project plan for the Rakaia River Terrace Walkway, with identified stages and target completion dates, is developed and implemented 	<p>A detailed Rakaia River Terrace Walkway project plan is completed by December 2009</p> <p>Department of Corrections are utilised as a labour force as required</p> <p>Investigate ways for the walkway to connect with the proposed national walk and cycleway</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Central Government agencies; Department of Conservation; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Reserves Board; Rakaia River Terrace Walkway Group</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community and Council work together to ensure the Rakaia Cemetery is an attractive place to preserve the social history of the area 	<p>Council's annual residents survey shows Eastern Ward residents maintain satisfaction with cemeteries (2009 – 97% satisfied, don't knows excluded)</p> <p>Department of Corrections are utilised as a labour force as required</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Community and Probation Services; Greater Rakaia community</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our parks, playgrounds and open spaces retain their special character and are maintained to a high standard 	<p>Council's annual residents survey shows Eastern Ward residents maintain satisfaction with parks, reserves and gardens overall (2009 – 98% satisfied, don't knows excluded)</p> <p>A children's playground is provided on the eastern side of Rakaia by 2019</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association; Ashburton District Council; Greater Rakaia community</p>

GOAL SIX: A COMMUNITY WITH A DIVERSE RANGE OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



RAKAIA'S SPORTING ACTIVITIES ARE WELL MANAGED AND CO-ORDINATED

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our sport and recreation organisations identify opportunities to work together when the need / opportunity arises 	<p>Sports clubs and organisations meet to discuss issues as and when required</p>	<p>Local clubs and organisations; Greater Rakaia community; Rakaia Community Association; Rakaia News, Sport Mid-Canterbury, Rakaia Reserves Board</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rakaia sport and recreation organisations investigate the feasibility of a shared clubroom facility in the Rakaia Domain 	<p>A decision is made on the feasibility of the Rakaia Domain shared facilities project by December 2010</p> <p>If viable, the shared clubroom facility is opened by 2015</p>	



OUR COMMUNITY'S RECREATION NEEDS ARE MET

How we will achieve it	How we will measure progress	Who will contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community supports the Rakaia Library and will investigate options for increasing usage 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association and the Rakaia Library will investigate options to increase library usage by June 2010</p> <p>Monitor library usage and membership from 2009 -19</p>	<p>Rakaia Library, Rakaia Community Association, Greater Rakaia community, Ashburton District Council</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encourage and support new leisure opportunities in the community 	<p>New leisure opportunities are supported by the community</p>	<p>Sport Mid-Canterbury, Local clubs and organisations, Rakaia Community Association, greater Rakaia community, Rakaia Medical Centre Trust, Central Government agencies (eg ACC), Rakaia Reserves Board</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rakaia community works to ensure the future sustainability of the community pool 	<p>The Rakaia community continues to support the operation of the Rakaia Swimming Pool</p> <p>Council investigates a Rakaia amenity rate for the Rakaia Swimming Pool</p>	<p>Rakaia Swimming Pool Committee, Rakaia Community Association, greater Rakaia community, Ashburton District Council, Rakaia News</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community works with our young people to identify recreation opportunities that meet the needs of Rakaia youth 	<p>The Rakaia Community Association works with youth to identify youth recreation opportunities on an ongoing basis</p> <p>If viable, these opportunities are realised</p>	<p>Rakaia Community Association, Rakaia Primary School, greater Rakaia community, local clubs and organisations, Sport Mid Canterbury.</p>

APPENDIX II

SWOT ANALYSIS FINDINGS

Attendees at the first workshop were asked to record in small groups what they considered strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing Rakaia (SWOT analysis). The results have been grouped into relevant themes by Community Planning staff, along with other data collected.

ROADING / TRANSPORT

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Commuting distance to Methven, Ashburton, Christchurch and Mt Hutt › Location on State Highway One 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › State Highway One Rakaia bridge in need of repair › State Highway One through Rakaia is in poor condition › Driving accessibility onto and off State Highway One is dangerous › Speed is too high on State Highway One through town › Trucks parking on State Highway One, near Mobil blocks view of motorists › Town divided by State Highway One and Railway crossing › Lack of public transport › Lack of street lighting › Leaning power poles
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Vulnerable if the State Highway One bridge is washed away › Crossing State Highway One on foot or cycle is dangerous 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Commuter rail with a stop at Rakaia › Upgrade of the Rakaia bridge to enable safe walking / cycling access › Signposting from State Highway One to the recycling station › State Highway One speed limit decreased › Public transport regularly to Ashburton and Methven › Heavy traffic bypass around town

Summary:

- Rakaia’s location on State Highway One and relatively short travel times to Ashburton, Christchurch and Mt Hutt are recognised by attendees as key strengths of the town.
- However despite the strength of being located on State Highway One, most of the perceived weaknesses and threats to the community are associated with State Highway One.
- Roading and transport opportunities in Rakaia include lowering the speed limit through town on State Highway One, making the Rakaia Bridge accessible for walkers and cyclists and investigating a regular public transport service.

RECREATION

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The existing Rakaia Swimming Pool › Domain location › Motor Bike tracks in the riverbed › Craft market › New courts in the Domain › Recreation opportunities (fishing, walking, golfing & skiing) › New Rakaia Walkway › Annual Salmon Fishing competition › Bi-annual Maize maze › Wide open spaces for recreation 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Limited teenage activities and facilities › Library is not well known, and availability is limited by opening hours › Rugby clubrooms are not in the Domain › Swimming pool not included in the proposed multi-function sports complex › There is little to do if you do not play sport
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Current state of playground in the park on State Highway One 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Domain multi function sports centre (possibly include pool & gym) › Youth group and facility for teenagers › Walkway extension › A dedicated motocross track › Develop a mountain bike & BMX track › Develop a skateboard on the east side of State Highway One › Upgrade playground at the Domain › Cover and heat the swimming pool › Improve access to the river with safe parking and boat ramp

Summary:

- Strengths of the recreation available in Rakaia are largely focused around sports and outdoor physical recreation, such as the swimming pool, the new courts at the Domain and the new Rakaia walkway
- This inclination towards sport was also recognised as a weakness of recreation opportunities in the town as it was noted that if you do not play sport there are few recreation opportunities provided for you.
- A major opportunity for Rakaia is the proposed Domain multi-sport complex, the development of a mountainbike / BMX track and skateboard facility and the upgrade of playgrounds in the town. Greater availability of the Library could improve its usage.

TOURISM & BUSINESS

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Craft market › Work opportunities › Salmon Tales › Rural farming and horticulture › Adequate shops › Mobil 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Seasonal workers › ATM in Mobil does not take many bank cards › Salmon Tales is in private hands › No banking facilities
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Young people leaving for work / study opportunities › Syndicate owned dairy farms › Global recession resulting in a tourism and rural downturn › People not stopping in Rakaia 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New industry and work opportunities especially for youth › Info centre at Salmon Tales › Bakery / café business › Airstrip by Scout den › More tourist opportunities › Attract more retail › Country spa development

Summary:

- Attendees at the workshop indicated that there is an adequate variety of retail shops in the community, but that a significant weakness is not having any banking facilities in town.
- Rakaia is vulnerable to people not stopping on their way through, however Salmon Tales and Mobil help to ensure people do.
- A major opportunity for the future is ensuring that industry continues coming to Rakaia, and that opportunities for employment (especially youth where possible) are available.

HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

(Please note that for the purpose of this report, Environment includes Natural and Built Assets, such as the river and the Resource Recovery Park)

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Historic buildings and heritage of the town › Township is an attractive focal point › Resource Recovery Park › River is our biggest asset 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Heritage buildings not being maintained › General tidiness of town is poor › No water at the cemetery › Cemetery needs a clean-up › Not enough rubbish bins in town › Air pollution
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Close distance to Christchurch › Modern tilt slab buildings are not heritage friendly › River eroding the south branch › Scarce water resources (eg dairy conversions) 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Develop a wall mural on the side of ATS facing the roundabout

Summary:

- Strengths of Rakaia's heritage and environment include the historic building and heritage of the town, the Resource Recovery Park and the river
- Despite the township being recognised as an attractive focal point, a perceived weakness of Rakaia is the poor general tidiness of the town and heritage buildings not being maintained. Modern tilt slab buildings are viewed as being a threat to the look and feel of the town.
- An opportunity exists to develop a wall mural on the side of the ATS building

SAFETY

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Volunteer Fire Brigade › Good Police presence 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Speed limit is too high on State Highway One through town › Trucks parking on State Highway One blocking visibility › Town divided by State Highway One and Railway crossing › Speed limit on State Highway One through town does not appear to be monitored
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Crossing the State Highway as a walker or cyclist › Walkers and cyclists crossing the Rakaia bridge 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Upgrade of the Rakaia bridge to enable safe walking / cycling access › State Highway One speed limit decreased

Summary:

- The Rakaia community is well served by the volunteer fire brigade and Police and these are recognised as a strength of the community
- State Highway One is viewed as the main weakness and threat to safety in Rakaia with issues including speed through town and lack of monitoring of this, crossing State Highway One and crossing the Rakaia Bridge as a pedestrian or cyclist
- Opportunities exist to decrease the State Highway One speed limit through town and to upgrade the Rakaia bridge so it is accessible for walkers and cyclists

HOUSING

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Plenty of room for expansion › Affordable house prices for family homes 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Lack of affordable housing for elderly › Not many empty sections left for sale at present › The look of re-located homes
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Re-located housing 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Affordable housing or flats, especially for retired people › Residential sections needed

Summary:

- In respect to its housing stock, Rakaia's strength lies in offering affordable family homes for newcomers to the town, with a large area of land zoned residential surrounding the town for future residential development.
- A distinct weakness for Rakaia is the lack of affordable housing for elderly people, which is of significant concern to the community given the aged population that lives there. This trend looks set to continue into the future for Rakaia.
- Relocated housing is viewed as a weakness and as a threat to the housing stock in Rakaia.
- Opportunities exist in Rakaia for increasing the stock of affordable housing or flats for elderly residents, and increasing the stock of residential sections available.

HEALTH

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Rakaia Medical Trust Health Centre 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › No care for elderly available in town (palliative care etc) › No rest home facilities
<p>Threats</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Expand the capability of the Medical Trust to include Community Care, Day Care & Hospice services › Increase the number of district nurse hours for elderly › Meal on wheels service for elderly

Summary:

- The Rakaia Medical Trust Health Centre is a significant strength of the community
- A lack of palliative and rest home care is a weakness of Rakaia, meaning that residents generally have to leave town if they require this standard of care
- Opportunities exist for increasing the levels of service offered by the Medical Centre Trust to include community care, day care and hospice services

COMMUNITY

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Community spirit and volunteerism › Rakaia School › Small and close knit community › Self-reliance › Communication with residents through the Rakaia News › Child friendly town › Accepting and inclusive culture › Playcentre › Fireworks display each year › Salmon statue 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Lack of community participation by residents aged under forty › High turnover of residents › Waiting for the public toilets to be upgraded › Self-reliance through volunteers
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Vandalism › Aging population › Long term viability of volunteers › Losing older children at the school and not being able to rebuild the numbers 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Santa parade › Christmas function › Recruitment of volunteers › Attract more residents through promoting the Rakaia lifestyle

Summary:

- Rakaia identified a number of community strengths including the strong sense of community spirit and self-reliance, the Rakaia Primary School and being a small, close knit community.
- Interestingly, self-reliance through volunteers was also noted as being a weakness and threat to the town as with the threat of an aging population there remains the issue of the future sustainability of services reliant on volunteers such as the Resource Recovery Park.
- Opportunities for the Rakaia community include investigating a Santa Parade / Christmas function and actively working on the recruitment of volunteers.

