



Community board plan

2021 - 2024

TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE

WELCOME...

The Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Plan is a foundation for us to build upon as we find a way forward, personally, and together.

We live in changing times, and I never thought in my lifetime we would be up against so many challenges.

The past three years have tested the strength within our community and many families are going back to basics. I am proud to see people reaching out and looking after each other.

We encourage everyone to get involved in our community gardens, food swapping, preserving, and learning how to grow food. There is a wealth of local knowledge in our Tuatapere Te Waewae community.

Our area offers some exceptional experiences, inland and coastal – Lake Hauroko, Lake Monowai, Borland Lodge, the Hump Ridge Track, Clifden Bridge, and the Clifden Caves, to mention a few.

While we welcomed an increase in domestic tourists, some local businesses closed due to a decline in international visitors. The people of Southland have had to dig deep, and having a strong and resilient community will be increasingly important for us going forward.



With the support of a “buy-local” strategy we can keep money within the community and help sustain local business.

We fully support the S.P.O.T- Suicide Prevention and Outreach Tuatapere programme. Their mission is to provide support, create connectivity within the community and create awareness – you are not alone.

Please come and talk to us so we can rebuild our area together. Your ideas are vital to create a plan for Tuatapere Te Waewae.

We can't do this alone. Individual changes and community challenges go hand in hand. What we leave our future generations is everyone's responsibility.

Margaret

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest of large, mature trees with thick, textured bark. The path is dappled with sunlight and shadows. The trees are tall and their branches are visible against a bright sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

OUR VISION

Tuatapere Te Waewae is a vibrant, thriving, and supportive community that is attractive to visitors.

Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Plan

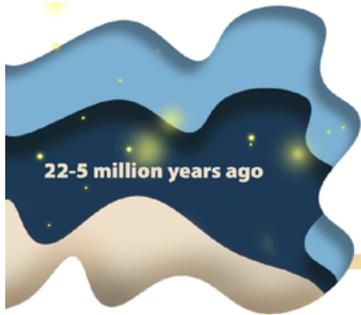
The Tuatapere Te Waewae community were invited to a community workshop.

The community told us what they loved about their area, what they saw as weaknesses and challenges of living in their area and what opportunities they saw for the Tuatapere Te Waewae community area going forward. Three main themes emerged when discussing the area.



The Tuatapere Te Waewae communities include:

Birchwood, Blackmount, Clifden, Cromarty, Eastern Bush, Feldwick, Happy Valley, Merrivale, Monkey Island, Monowai, Orawia, Orepuki, Otahu Flat, Pahia, Papatotara, Piko Piko, Port Craig, Pukemaori, Raymonds Gap, Round Hill, Te Oneroa, Te Tua, Te Waewae, Tuatapere, Waihoaka.



22-5 million years ago

The Clifden Limestone Caves are formed in the Miocene area which are later found to have Māori rock drawings are local features.

Local Māori used the unique and highly prized garnet gemstones on the beach to polish and sharpen their 'toki' or adzes/axes.



Pahia served as an important contact point for European sealers and traders requiring potatoes and flax for the Australian market.

Gold is discovered in the beaches black sand near Orepuke which soon became a gold mining settlement of 3000 people.



Tuatapere became a **booming sawmill centre**



Puysegur Point lighthouse was built. The lighthouse has been automated since 1989.



Clifden suspension bridge was built to **replace a punt** which had operated since the early days of settlement

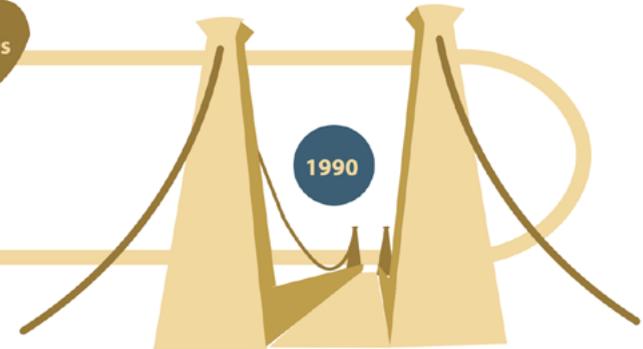
Leo Henderson invents the original Tuatapere Sausages recipe



Originally named **Papatotara**, the town was renamed **Tuatapere**



The Percy Burn Viaduct is opens. It is thought to be the largest surviving wooden viaduct in the world



Clifden Suspension Bridge is listed as a Historic Place Category 1

Port Craig Sawmill and Settlement is listed as a Historic Place Category 1

The land around the **Port Craig settlement** becomes part of the Fiordland National Park.

The Percy Burn Viaduct reopens after **\$710,000 restoration**

The **Hump Ridge Track** declared the eleventh Great Walk of New Zealand



Tuatapere Te Waewae population 1617

Male	54%
Female	46%
Under 15	21%
15-29 years	16%
30-64 years	48%
65 and over	15%

Ethnic makeup	
European	91%
Maori	12%
Pacific peoples	1%
Asian	4%
Middle Eastern/ Latin American/African	1%
Other	2%

Work and labour force status

Employed Full-time	55%
Employed Part-time	15%
Unemployed	3%
Not in the Labour Force	26%

Home ownership

Own or partly own	56%
Do not own and do not hold in family trust	44%

Our people **value**

Our unique environment

- The place where we live
- The natural environment, the scenery
- Recreational amenities
- A base for wilderness activities
- Access to rivers, lakes and the sea
- Tuatapere trails

Community spirit

- Strong volunteers
- Generous and collaborative people
- People helping people
- Independent thinkers and doers
- Making people feel welcome

Our heritage

- Forestry, Sawmilling, Bushmans museum
- The Clifden suspension bridge
- Mining heritage
- Electricity generation
- The Hump Ridge track

By the community - for the community

This plan is a reflection of a community working together to build a better now and a future we can all be proud of.

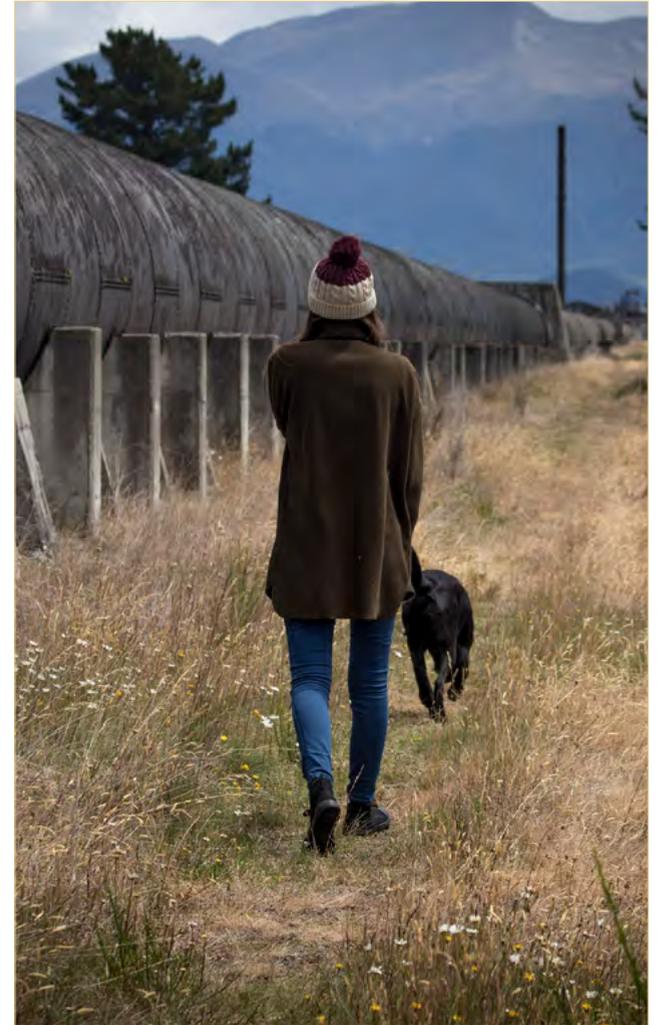


Three main themes emerged when discussing the Tuatapere Te Waewae area.

1 A community that is a destination for visitors and appealing for businesses

2 A healthy, safe and connected community with access to quality services and facilities

3 A community that celebrates and protects its history and heritage



a wide and diverse area
providing quality facilities, amenities and services



OUTCOME ONE

A COMMUNITY THAT IS A
DESTINATION FOR VISITORS
AND APPEALING FOR
BUSINESSES

Our community values its location within the natural environment and the recreational opportunities close by.

The attraction of more visitors to Tuatapere Te Waewae is seen by residents as the most important opportunity to grow the economy.

Attracting business through the promotion of the area, beautifying the township, supporting local businesses, and ensuring there is suitable and affordable housing for everyone in the community is paramount to achieving the community's vision.



What would it take to have a community that is
connected and engaged?

CONNECTED

COMMUNITY IDEAS



Destination Management

Tuatapere Te Waewae is an ideal base for many wilderness activities such as hiking, fishing, white baiting, hunting and jet boating.

Residents have expressed a desire to encourage visitors to stop, experience and spend within the area. To do this, the community have signalled that they need to develop new and promote current attractions, activities and events, provide good accommodation options, ensure our infrastructure can support the visitor industry and develop a brand for the area.

Master planning and beautification

A visually appealing community increases property values, attracts businesses, and improves the neighbourhood's image.

Rejuvenation of the town through the master planning and beautification of the main street, working bees, and tidiest street competitions were just some of the suggestions from our community on how to make Tuatapere an attractive place to visit and live.



Fill vacant shops and spaces

Residents of the Tuatapere Te Waewae area share a desire to see the empty shops and spaces within the towns filled to create more vibrancy in our towns.

This can be done by bringing life and creativity through the use of displays, art, and pop-up projects.

Community housing

Our community recognises the importance of housing to community wellbeing, especially for those whose specific needs may not be provided by the housing market. Community housing not only provides benefit to the individuals residing in the houses, but also has positive effects for the community as a whole.

Supporting local

Local businesses and services in the area are valued and the concept of buying local is a priority to ensure the success and sustainability of Tuatapere Te Waewae. Additionally, the importance of networking between businesses to share information and resources, join forces on political decisions affecting them, and to encourage a positive and supportive business climate.



OUTCOME 1 ACTION PLANS



OBJECTIVES	COMMUNITY	TTCB	PARTNERS	TIMELINE MEASURES
Develop and implement a Tuatapere Te Waewae Destination Management Plan that includes product development, promotion and marketing of the area and infrastructure and funding requirements.	Contribute to the development of the plan in collaboration with Great South	Contribute to the development of the plan in collaboration with Great South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local groups and organisations 	
Great events are held in the Tuatapere Te Waewae area	<p>Events are led by the community</p> <p>Greater collaboration between groups to ensure alignment with events</p>	Provide communications support and consider financial support through the Community Partnership Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local groups and organisations • Local businesses • Youth • Funding agencies 	



ACTION	COMMUNITY	TTCB	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAMES
Develop and implement a main street master plan for Tuatapere	Work alongside to develop and implement a main street master plan	Facilitate the development of a main street master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local groups and organisations • Local businesses • Youth • Funding agencies 	
Fill vacant shops and spaces within the Tuatapere Te Waewae area with tactical placemaking	Contribute to the development of initiatives to fill empty shops and spaces	Facilitate the connections between community groups and key stakeholders. Consider financial support through the Community Partnership Fund.	Southland District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government • Funding agencies 	
Support the increased development of community housing provision	Advocate and lobby for community housing in the Tuatapere Te Waewae area	Advocate and lobby for community housing in the Tuatapere Te Waewae area	Southland District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government • Funding agencies 	
Support a buy local strategy to keep money within the community	Contribute to “buying-local”	Publicising and advocating for “buying-local”	Southland District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government • Funding agencies 	
Support networking between businesses	Support businesses work together achieve collaborative and mutually beneficial outcomes	Provide communications support	Southland District Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government • Funding agencies 	



OUTCOME TWO

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND
CONNECTED COMMUNITY WITH
ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES
AND FACILITIES

The Tuatapere Te Waewae community value their strong and independent community spirit as well as the generosity, volunteerism, and support of the people within the area. We have a strong desire to ensure Tuatapere Te Waewae is a healthy and safe area to live with good access to quality services and facilities to ensure the wellbeing of residents and long-term sustainability.



How can we create
a progressive and thriving economy

Welcoming to newcomers

The residents would like to ensure that visitors and newcomers to the area are made to feel welcome and included within the community.

This aides in creating a healthy, safe and resilient area to live and visit.

More volunteers

As the population ages, there is a demand for younger residents to volunteer for essential services. This is to ensure the continuity of those emergency services such as the fire brigade and ambulance.



OUTCOME 2 ACTION PLANS



ACTION	COMMUNITY	TTCB	PARTNERS	TIMELINE MEASURES
Advocate for strong local medical services in the Tuatapere Te Waewae area	Lobby the relevant people and organisations	Lobby the relevant people and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) Southern • Waiau Health Trust • Lions Club • St John Ambulance • Physio 	



ACTION	COMMUNITY	TTCB	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAMES
Support community transport initiatives		Encourage potential operators to discuss options with the community board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport provider • Funding organisations 	
Encourage youth to become more involved in community groups and volunteer opportunities	Increased opportunities for youth to be involved in local initiatives	Create opportunities to hear from youth about community initiatives for youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Local schools 	
Ensure the community is welcoming with newcomers	Explores opportunities to include newcomers in community activities	Support welcoming initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups/organisations 	
Encourage the gifting of excess produce	Support the community garden and use of the community fridge.	Support community-led initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups/organisations 	
Maintaining good community facilities		Support initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups/organisations 	
Address Mental Health and wellbeing		Support initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.P.O.T – Suicide Prevention Outreach Tuatapere • Waiau Health Trust • Farmers • Schools • Southland Rural Support Trust 	



OUTCOME THREE

A COMMUNITY THAT CELEBRATES
AND PROTECTS ITS HISTORY
AND HERITAGE

The Tuatapere Te Waewae area has a rich heritage encompassing sawmilling, forestry, goldmining, farming, railway and electricity generation.

The community wishes to celebrate and protect the heritage and stories in the area.



How can we encourage a connected,
involved and thriving community?

OUTCOME 3 ACTION PLANS



ACTION	COMMUNITY	TTCB	PARTNERS	TIMELINE MEASURES
Encourage groups in showcasing the areas history and heritage.	Get involved and show support	Support initiatives that celebrate local heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuatapere Promotions • Southland Regional Heritage Committee • Bushman’s Museum 	



DISTRICT BUSINESS OVERVIEW

As our boards wanted to ensure local businesses were represented in this plan, a district-wide survey was conducted to capture a snapshot of their views.

The main advantage identified for businesses in the south were being on the main tourist route. Other benefits included a supportive community and loyal customers, centrality of location, close proximity to Queenstown and less competition.

Challenges faced were seasonality, labour shortages, unreliability of the internet and phone coverage, power cuts, council red tape and issues with the delivery of goods.

Respondents stated that they foresee business growth in the next five years as being 67 percent – based on 0 percent being none at all and 100 percent significant growth.

Comments included:

- We will only be able to expand when we find more staff to employ
- There is expected increase in the building industries and maintenance work
- We are actively investing and growing our business and we work with the USA and Australian markets which are still strong performers
- Council's bridge closures are challenging for us
- Increase of raw materials available
- Over the last 5 years we have expanded to cover more areas
- We only have a small site so there is limited potential for further growth
- My business is hospitality and tourism based, hospitality is directly affected by rural economy, any decline in farmer income would have a direct impact on their disposable income, therefore it is impossible to predict future trends
- Tourism has had a steady increase over the years

Southland district a better place to operate a business - attracted the following comments:

- Better services - more reliable internet etc
- Yes, rental properties would be great, the lack of accommodation here can be and is a real problem especially for staff
- Establishing a business operators organisation
- Easing of red tape and costs of compliance
- Tidy up our main streets where businesses are located
- Getting people to support and shop local
- Maybe a community business Facebook page where we can share and support each other. I would like to know the other business owners in my community and share ideas
- We will need to invest in new housing and visitor accommodation
- Vastly improved internet required
- More public toilets and tourist information regarding this



Economic stability
plays an important
role in the future of
our community.

Approximately 38%
of respondents had
connected with their
community board.

Comments included:

- Local board members have been positive, and several have visited/maintained contact. Very encouraging
- Just thought of it now
- The community board members aren't business focused, it's not their area of expertise
- Yes, through the local business association
- Never thought of it
- I have discussed it with many members of the community, this will have filtered through to the community board I'm sure. I have never been invited or asked my opinion directly from our community board
- Not sure of the process how to connect with them



YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE AND THEIR OPINION COUNTS.

Led by the Southland District Council youth councillors, a **district-wide survey** was conducted to gauge the views of young people to be included in this community board plan.

In collating the responses, a genuine sense of community featured highest among things Southland youth liked most about living in the district.

The people, small town vibe, feeling safe and the surrounding environment and landscape rated highly.

Successfully enhancing communities with a youth focus would include more activities, opportunities, events, shops and facilities as a place to hang out. Three major issues identified as having an impact were the mental health and wellbeing of young people, diversity and inclusion, and climate change.

85 percent of survey respondents believed mental health was a significant issue, with 65 percent believing there was not sufficient access to help and support.

Comments included:

- There's still a lot of stigma around mental health
- Young males and the farming community are at risk
- People don't feel safe to talk
- No one wants to talk to the school guidance counsellor
- Good support in school but once kids have left school there's nothing
- Invercargill is too far to travel for services
- It's a problem everywhere
- Some individuals have mental health issues but the majority don't
- I don't know how to access support but I probably should



95%
feel accepted in their
community.

68%
feel safe to
express their
identity.

57%
do not think there are
enough opportunities in
Southland to express
their identity.

Comments included:

- There's a fear of judgement
- Southland is very judgemental and aren't good at accepting differences
- There is LGBTQ phobia
- If you aren't involved with rugby or sports, you aren't included in the community
- Everyone in the community is included
- There's more openness to multiculturalism
- A lot of racism here
- Some people get beaten for being gay and expressing it
- We need more festivals and events to celebrate people



In our evolving world, youth are acutely aware of climate change and the role they have to play.

Youth rated the level their community was responding to climate change at 42 percent, with 0 being not at all and 100 responding extremely well. Reasons included that a lot of people in Southland don't believe in climate change, it's easy to turn a blind eye, the older generation are often stubborn and it's not a priority for Southland's communities as there were bigger issues right now.

Identified among the best ways to respond to climate change were more recycling, reducing plastic, improving farm practices and changing the way we think.

Comments included:

- We need more effective rubbish disposal in rural areas
- We need to promote locally sourced foods
- It needs to be a priority, not just something in the news
- Initiatives like boomerang bags are quite cool
- The issue isn't advertised locally
- People are finally speaking up about it
- Most people have more important stuff to worry about
- Climate change doesn't exist
- People see environmentally friendly alternatives as inconvenient
- There's no public pressure from council



COMMUNITIES
hold Southland
together

facebook.com/tuataperetewaewacommunityboard

