



Wesley
Community
Action

community ■ compassion ■ change

Tō tātau haerenga whakahou

Wesley Rātā Village – our journey of renewal

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Nā tō kete, nā tōku kete ka ora ai te iwi

With your contribution and my contribution, the community flourishes

Introduction

Since we stopped providing residential aged care at Wesleyhaven resthome and hospital in Naenae in August 2017 we have made a significant amount of progress on our journey of renewal.

There is much life in this Wesley Rātā Village project.

This report outlines our progress to date, our theories of change, our collaborations, the lessons we've learned and the mahi ahead. It also shares some key facts and figures and some of the stories that bring them to life.

We hope it gives readers a good picture of the journey we have made as we move from the sadness of closing Wesleyhaven to the hope and positivity of growing Wesley Rātā Village.

Our progress in 2018

We made progress in six areas of mahi during 2018:

1. **Kāinga** | Homes – Affordable rental housing in an intentional community

In December 2018 we signed a contract to build 25 new homes at the Village. This \$8.4m project will take the number of warm, healthy rental homes at the Village to 55.

2. **Mahi** | Jobs skills and support for young people seeking a job

We started hosting the Kiwi Can Do job-skills training course in our old hospital building. By the end of 2018 we had welcomed and celebrated 35 young people through this course. We also prototyped a number of other events to bring rangatahi and their skills to the Village.

3. **Tamariki** | Children – Space for parents, babies and children to play and learn

We continued hosting the Rātā Playgroup and started a new playgroup, Ngā Weriweri ō Naenae Nature Playgroup. We also won a contract with the Ministry of Education to run the Incredible Years parenting course at the Village in 2019.

4. **Kia tūhono ngā kaumātua** | Connecting in ageing – Ageing Well Network

We designed and started running a successful 10-week Ageing Well course for isolated older people in a dementia-friendly environment. We also secured some funding to work with course graduates, their whānau and the wider Lower Hutt community to design a community response for how to care for seniors/kaumātua.

5. **Wāhi hui** | Gathering space – Hosting community

We hosted 126 events and had 1040 visits, many of them repeat visits by people who regularly engage with us. From community lunches to exercise classes and movie showings, we have had people from across the community come and be a part of the Village.

6. **Taiao** | Nature – Restoring the bush and environment so it can help restore us

We partnered with the Naenae Nature Trust to plant 250 trees and bring people into nature to connect and be inspired.

Our focus for 2019

The building project at Wesley Rātā Village will obviously be a major focus for us during for 2019.

In terms of our community development work, there are many things to continue exploring in partnership with others. But we will focus on two major pieces of community-development work during 2019:

1. Establishing a new community-driven approach to support older people to lead good lives. This will build on the existing Ageing Well course and extend it to the next stage. We will carry out the co-design work for this community-driven approach during 2019 and intend to complete a well-developed project plan that will attract significant partnership and investment so we can build the resulting initiative in 2020. In this way, our community can transform the way we care for seniors/kaumātua in Lower Hutt.
2. Developing a plan to welcome the residents of the 25 new homes. We will prepare the social infrastructure alongside the physical buildings necessary to make the Village a great place to live.

The decisions we make about what mahi we take on in 2019 will be guided by how that work fits with our vision. We'll give priority to the mahi that helps us work towards these two major workstreams for this year.

April 2019

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Wesley Rātā Village Vision



Whānau head out to the bush to play and hear stories at a Hutt Winter Festival event organised by the Naenae Nature Trust.

When we stopped providing residential aged care at Wesleyhaven resthome and hospital in August 2017, the Wesley Community Action Board made the decision to retain ownership of the land. It was gifted to Wesley for the benefit of the community (for the establishment of an Eventide Home settlement) and we are committed to that kaupapa. In the months after closing Wesleyhaven we carried out a whole range of community conversations about what to do next. We have combined what the community told us with our mission and skills to develop a vision for the village.

Across the generations, everyone contributing towards a good life.

Wesley Rātā Village is a place to reweave community and to support wellbeing and resilience. It is a home to enjoy living in and a place to visit for inspiration and strengthening connections. It's a place for all generations, with a special position for seniors/kaumātua.

Gifted 70 years ago to support vulnerable seniors/kaumātua in the Hutt Valley, our 60 hectares of awa (rivers), ngahere (bush), māra (gardens), valleys, homes, and rooms are a significant community asset. Wesley Community Action is privileged to be the current kaitiaki of this site and the holders of the new vision.

The reweaving of community at Wesley Rātā Village will involve many strands all contributing to the overarching vision. The reweaving is shaped by the community of people. Many partnerships and relationships will grow over time out of connections to the Village.

The following touchstones guide our work at the Village:

- **Kia hōnore te Tiriti** | Honoring the Treaty – connections are strengthened with whānau, hapū and iwi
- **Taupuhipuhi** | Mutual exchange – fostering opportunities for people to give and receive
- **Kia haumanu** | Restorative – a place for healing relationships with the land and each other
- **Kia toitū** | Sustainable – enriching the physical, social, economic environment to support future stewardship
- **Mana a-rohē** | Local orientation – local people are active in all aspects and we are connected as part of a vibrant Naenae and wider Hutt
- **Ako** | Learning – knowledge is shared and expanded between generations and cultures

Strategic Outcomes

We have identified six strategic outcomes for our work at Wesley Rātā Village. These outcomes guide our decision-making as we strive to achieve them.

We are building a place that grows:

1. **Takune** | Intention – People plan for their own and their community's future
2. **Whanaungatanga** | Connectedness – People spark connection to end loneliness
3. **Whakatipuranga** | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
4. **Tino rangatiratanga** | Agency – People, especially seniors/kaumātua, are able to actively lead their own lives
5. **Ngākau reka** | Attitudes – A positive attitude to ageing flourishes
6. **Koha** | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued

Early strands of activity

1. KĀINGA / HOMES: Affordable rental housing in an intentional community



The Village will soon be home to more people as we build new affordable rental houses.

After the residential aged-care facilities at Wesleyhaven (now Wesley Rātā Village) were closed in August 2017, we continued to rent our independent living units (the embodiment of the original Eventide home concept) to around 30 older people, most of whom have resided onsite for many years. They have been supported by our Facilities Coordinator and our Seniors Community Developer. The residents' association have also made great moves of their own to develop their kawa/culture, ways to meet their own needs and help each other, and ways to welcome new residents.

A large part of our mahi during 2018 was to secure funding and develop plans to build more affordable rental units at the Village. In December 2018 we finalised contracts with the Government and with Masterton prefabricated home provider EasyBuild to build 25 new affordable rental homes at the Village.

Work on this \$8.4 million development started in February 2019. It will take the number of rental homes at the Village to 55 and will provide many people with the warm, affordable home they need. These 25 new units will be made available to applicants on the government's Housing Register for people who have been assessed as eligible for social housing and are waiting to be matched to a house. We will continue to provide affordable private rentals in our existing 30 units as well.

The project is being carried out through a partnership between three organisations in the Methodist Church: Wesley Community Action, which owns the land and is leading the redevelopment; Airedale Property Trust, a specialist housing agency which will be the project manager, and the Methodist Trust Association, which is the principal funder. We will have an ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to provide income-related rent subsidies to our new residents.



The layout of the new homes has been designed by John Mills Architects, who have also set out ideas for how the Village might be in the future.

The 25 new homes will consist of eight 1-bedroom houses, 13 2-bedroom houses, and four 4-bedroom houses. Wellington architect John Mills has developed a plan for the site to ensure each home gets privacy, sun and views, and to encourage interactions between residents. The community will evolve a shared tikanga, supported by Wesley Community Action, for how they will live together.

Theory of change and link to outcome

We have become increasingly concerned about the growing number of baby boomers entering older age with no permanent home and few assets. Through our many years of working with vulnerable older people we know that a growing number of them will spend their later years in sub-standard rental accommodation. This can put them at greater risk of loneliness and poor health. We want to help address this by creating an intergenerational community, learning from co-housing models around the world, with older people at its heart.

By making good-quality affordable homes available to older people, and others in the community, the people who will live at Wesley Rātā Village will be able to live in a home that they can feel safe in and afford, which also means they are able to plan for their future. Having other age groups living at the Village will help us grow a place where all stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness.

This building project links to the following strategic outcomes:

- **Takune** | Intention – People plan for their own and their community's future
- **Whakatipuranga** | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
- **Tino rangatiratanga** | Agency – People, especially seniors/kaumātua, are able to actively lead their own lives

Mahi tahi – collaborations

We are delighted to be working with EasyBuild on the new homes at the Village. They are able to provide us with warm, healthy homes that are prefabricated in the Wairarapa and then assembled onsite. We are extra excited about working with them as they have embraced our vision for the site and will be working with job-skills training organisation Kiwi Can Do to give trainees some real-life experience of working on a big project like this.

The passion and skills of our architect John Mills have brought invaluable future-planning for the Village, so we can see and share the potential for this place, and so we can ensure that the layout of the new homes makes it a great place to live.

This new build has only been possible with the support and work of our fellow Methodist organisations, Airedale Property Trust and the Methodist Church Trust Association. We have now applied to become a Community Housing Provider and are hopeful our application will be successful.

Lessons learnt

1. We have had challenges along the way trying to meet the important peace and security needs of the current residents, while also planning for meeting the needs of future residents. Some of the current residents have – rightly so – been worried about seeing a whole lot of new buildings and people come and change the place they love living in. Through open and respectful conversations, a long history of trust both ways, and sharing information appropriately, we have managed to keep relationships strong. We will need to keep making sure that residents know that we take their concerns about their peace and security seriously as we develop the Village.
2. We have learnt numerous lessons about negotiating on such a big project, including the lesson that good partnerships and maintaining relationships are essential.
3. We have learnt that playing a role as brokers is helpful. Through linking Kiwi Can Do (see below) and EasyBuild together we will all see many more benefits to this project as young people get real-life experience on a big building project. We will continue to identify opportunities to play this brokerage role.

Mahi ahead

Working on a significant build will stretch our organisation and take a lot of resource to manage. We are up for this challenge.

We need to foster the social infrastructure to welcome the residents of 25 new homes and make sure they feel a part of the Village and their place in it.

We will work with the current residents, as well as experts in co-housing, to identify the key things we need to have in place and ensure that our work this year is focused on achieving that.

2. MAHI / JOBS: Skills and support for young people seeking a job



The Village will be a place for young people to build work skills and confidence.

We're really excited to have entered into a project with Kiwi Can Do¹, who are leasing our old Hospital building to run their youth training course. Kiwi Can Do is a programme that helps young people grab the bottom rung of the employment ladder and get started. It is funded by the Ministry of Social Development to run 3-week residential courses to get young people ready and work-fit. Kiwi Can builds confidence and matches cadets up with employers; staff stay in touch with graduates for 3 months after they finish the course to provide support.

We are really pleased to have Kiwi Can Do bringing people and energy to the site. Wesley Community Action staff and residents welcome each new group to our place on their first days and take part in each graduation, and Kiwi Can Do have joined our Community Guiding Group for the Village.

We brokered a relationship between Kiwi Can Do and our builders EasyBuild to make sure that the young people are part of the development of a real-life building project and have a lasting connection with the Village they will help to build. Both Kiwi Can Do and EasyBuild have jumped wholeheartedly into the relationship.

We have also built good partnerships with Naenae College and Wā Ora College, which we will continue to grow, to grab opportunities to support their young people in building their future employment or to use the Village for practical outside the class-room learning.

Theory of change and link to outcome

There is a need to support young people facing hurdles to gaining employment. At the Village we have the chance to provide people with the ability to contribute their skills and time, and develop employment-relevant skills so they can plan for their future. In this way, those people will be empowered to plan for their – and their community's – future and have tino rangatiratanga over their lives. Also, by bringing young people to be a part of the Village whānau we are ensuring opportunities for generations to mingle.

These partnerships to support young people seeking a job link to the following strategic outcomes:

- Takune | Intention – People plan for their own and their community's future

¹ kiwi-can-do.co.nz

- Whakatipuranga | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
- Koha | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued
- Tino rangatiratanga | Agency – People, especially seniors/kaumātua, are able to actively lead their own lives.

Mahi tahi – collaborations

Working with Kiwi Can Do has brought a lot of energy to the Village. We are excited about the linking of Kiwi Can Do with our residents, and with EasyBuild to construct the new homes.

Kiwi Can Do have shown a great commitment to our vision as well. They are a valued member of our Community Guiding Group, we enjoy being a part of their welcomes and graduations and we're looking forward to how else we might work together.

We can also see the potential for doing more to build the skills of rangatahi in Naenae. We have Wā Ora and Naenae College as valued members of our Community Guiding Group and we have (with the mahi of local young people's arts collective Brothers and Sisters) prototyped different events with both Wā Ora and rangatahi from Naenae Clubhouse who have come to develop their skills at the Village.

Lessons learnt

1. Having the new activity of Kiwi Can Do, and a new group of young people coming onsite every month, makes the Village busy and brings new challenges. Good, open relationships between all parties are required to help identify and fix problems as they arise.
2. A good match of kaupapa and ways of working between partner organisations, as well as practical, solution-focused staff are important factors in successful partnerships.
3. The Village has always been a place for seniors/kaumātua and it is a change for our current residents to have young people visiting and living on site, but it is a challenge they are up for with support and open conversations.

Mahi ahead

We need to spend some time growing our relationships with Naenae College and Wā Ora and forge new relationships with the other high schools and youth agencies so that local young people can have a connection with the Village and gain opportunities to contribute to their local community and build real-life work skills. This will mainly be done through the Community Guiding Group of which Naenae College and Wā Ora are current members. We can see potential to link young people with real-work experience around construction, aged care, conservation, and the arts.

Projects with young people have the potential to contribute to our two major pieces of community development work this year – developing a kawa for new residents and designing an Ageing Well Network.

3. TAMARIKI / CHILDREN: Space for parents, babies and

children to play and learn



Tamariki enjoy the puppet show 'Nan and Tuna' organised by the Naenae Nature Trust as part of the Hutt Winter Festival.

Two playgroups of tamariki and their whānau meet regularly in Wesley Rātā Village. Next to the stream and bush, this is a time and place for tamariki to play and explore.

The long-running Rātā Playgroup has been continuing to meet weekly in the Rec Hall. They have a commitment to cross-generational play and welcome senior/kaumātua Village residents to play with the tamariki. This playgroup built a relationship with the Ageing Well groups and came to play with the seniors/kaumātua and shared a Christmas celebration with them. At the Ageing Well Pilot Group one of our volunteers (who was also a staff member) brought her baby, Kahurangi, to each of the 10 sessions. This was a real success with each of the group members building a lovely bond with Kahurangi and getting to see grow and develop each week.

We have also supported the establishment of a new forest playgroup – Ngā Weriweri ō Naenae Nature Playgroup. This is a group of local parents and their tamariki who come every 2 weeks to take part in some outside play in nature. Naenae Kindy has started to bring a group of their tamariki up to each session. This is a chance to connect to the environment and the seasons and build a relationship with the atua of the natural world and the trees, birds, insects and the river that we are lucky to have on our site.

We have also hosted, through our partnerships with Wā Ora school and the Naenae Nature Trust, groups of local tamariki who have come to the Village to look at the stream, and do their science and conservation work.

We have also been appointed as one of the Ministry of Education providers of the Incredible Years parenting course and will start to run that course at the Village in late 2019.

We have firmly established ourselves this year, through partnerships, as a place for tamariki and their carers to come and play and learn.

Theory of change and link to outcome

Tamariki and their whānau and carers are coming to the Village regularly and getting the chance to connect and contribute to each other's lives, especially at a time which is lonely and isolating for many – being at home with young tamariki. Bringing tamariki to the Village is a crucial part of celebrating all stages of life and mingling together to support wellness. Many of our

seniors/kaumātua don't have young tamariki in their lives and many of our young families are missing grandparents being around. Just being together gives chances for contribution.

These activities link to the following strategic outcomes:

- **Whanaungatanga** | Connectedness – People spark connection to end loneliness
- **Whakatipuranga** | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
- **Koha** | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued

Mahi tahi – collaborations

Working with tamariki has given us lots of scope for collaboration. The young people's art collective Brothers and Sisters and local woman, Bea Joblin, have been great partners with running the Rātā Playgroup and the Ngā Weriweri ō Naenae Nature Playgroup. Naenae Nature Trust, Wā Ora and EnviroSchools have also been great collaborators, bringing tamariki to the Village to engage in nature play and events. We see potential to also work with the Hutt Timebank in the future on our tamariki work.

Lessons learnt

1. So far, these playgroups have been successful. However, they are under-resourced with little or no funding attached to them. We have learnt that they are reliant on passionate people to run them and are aware this can't be taken for granted.
2. We have learnt that there is not an easy solution to bringing generations together. A group of children is understandably noisy and chaotic and that doesn't make for a relaxing and calm time for seniors/kaumātua who have hearing or cognitive issues. Making one baby a part of the Ageing Well course was a real success and something we should keep our eyes open for opportunities to do again (with the right baby!). Equally, having a regular senior/kaumātua at the Rātā Playgroup has been a real joy which we should keep encouraging.

Mahi ahead

Both of these playgroups are run by volunteers and rely on their generosity. This means we would like to identify ways to grow them and attract some investment, so the facilitators are able to be paid.

Looking ahead to our new residents arriving, some of them will have tamariki. We need to focus our tamariki and play mahi around the workstream of preparing the Village to welcome these new residents. It will be good to have these playgroups well established and sustainable when any new whānau move in so they can be a part of them and part of building the new kawa of the Village. There is potential to explore using the Hutt Timebank to facilitate an exchange of skills and time.

There is also interest and potential in developing Ngā Weriweri ō Naenae Nature Playgroup into a playgroup that supports Te Reo Māori as the current facilitator is also a Te Reo Māori kaiako.

4. KIA TŪHONO NGĀ KAUMĀTUA / CONNECTING IN AGEING: Ageing Well Network



Two members of our first Ageing Well course, Basil and Kahurangi.

A core part of the Village's history has been supporting older people. The last 18 months has built on this support, particularly for older people with limited choices. We have shifted our focus from a mainstream institutional model of care of seniors/kaumātua to a village of people wanting to live in their own place surrounded by opportunities to engage, contribute, and retreat.

Wesley Community Action is partnering with local people and organisations to craft a new model for how the community cares for people as they age. During 2018 we invested in developing an Ageing Well course as the first step to provide opportunities for people with age-related issues to gather, share and contribute to the wider community.

So far we have brought three ropū of seniors/kaumātua together for an Ageing Well course. They meet once a week for 10 weeks, and can enjoy each other's company, relearn about making friendships and contribute to others in partnership with the Hutt Timebank. These groups have been tailored to be welcoming for people who are in the early stages of dementia, or have other brain injuries, or who are experiencing social isolation (loneliness). Our evaluation of the first group showed that it was really valued by its members. Eight out of the nine members agreed or strongly agreed that:

- they feel more that they lead a purposeful and meaningful life
- they are engaged and interested in their daily activities
- they actively contribute to the happiness and well-being of others
- they are competent and capable in the activities that are important to them
- they are a good person and live a good life
- they are optimistic about the future
- people respect them.

Each of these Ageing Well courses have been a real success. We keep thinking we can't get another group that get on as well as the last, but we do. The second group named themselves "The Happy Wanderers" and the third "Aroha-nui". Even the people who are our 'volunteers', who come to help, are finding that the group brings a lot to their lives as well. Each of the members, at the end of the 10-week course, is invited to join our Ageing Well Coffee Group, which is held every Monday. This allows members to meet weekly and build on the friendships and confidence they have grown over the 10-week course.

Developing this course has been the first step on our journey of innovation to help shift how communities care for, and connect with, our ageing population to ensure that seniors/kaumātua are positive and active participants in their ageing. The Hutt City, Office for Seniors and the Methodist Church of New Zealand have all seen the value of this work and have invested funds into helping us develop it. The Hutt Valley District Health Board have also invested in this work through providing some funding towards our ongoing Ageing Well Courses.

We have also been working to solidify relationships with key partners. Our neighbours just down the road, Te Mangungu Marae, host Kokiri Marae Hauora Services' Kaumātua group once a week and we have been building a good working relationship with them as our local Marae and closest community of fellow seniors/ kaumātua.

Theory of change and link to outcome

We have significant change looming as our population ages. We are unlikely to be able to continue to care for our seniors/kaumātua in the same way we do now. A community response is required to make sure that all people have a good life as they age. By bringing seniors/kaumātua together to share and learn from each other about how to live well while growing old they are supported to identify needs and related initiatives that better support them. The whole community needs to be a part of the process as all generations have something to add and gain. The result will be a more connected community, where there is a more positive attitude to ageing and everyone's contribution is valued.

This Ageing Well work is core to the Village vision and meets all six of our strategic outcomes:

- **Takune** | Intention – People plan for their own and their community's future
- **Whanaungatanga** | Connectedness – People spark connection to end loneliness
- **Whakatipuranga** | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
- **Tino rangatiratanga** | Agency – People, especially seniors/kaumātua, are able to actively lead their own lives
- **Ngākau reka** | Attitudes – A positive attitude to ageing flourishes
- **Koha** | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued

Mahi tahi – collaborations

Our key collaborators on Ageing Well are the seniors/kaumātua in our community. They are the ones who will make any network fly.

We have been working with the Hutt Valley DHB on how they can contribute to this mahi, and the

Hutt City Council about how we can learn from each other about what we are doing to support seniors/kaumātua. Both of these organisations are providing us with some funding for this mahi, along with the Office of Seniors, and the Methodist Church.

We are also finding good ways to connect and share with Kokiri Marae Health and Social Service and Te Mangungu Marae as they support people through their Kaumātua sessions. We have had initial conversations with the Pacific Health Service in Naenae about how we can meet the needs of our Pacific community and look forward to doing more with them. There are a number of other agencies /projects which we are connecting with: Dementia Wellington and Enliven Connect and the Hutt Timebank are three key ones.

Lessons learnt

1. There are many people and organisations who want to end loneliness and promote ageing well in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our work will be in bringing all the ideas into a workable solution led by seniors/kaumātua.
2. Seniors/kaumātua are up for the challenge of being supported to be more in control of their own ageing – they all have something to contribute.
3. There is a need for investment in this area of ageing well. We have managed to receive seed funding for this work and have had many discussions with potential future funders who are excited by the potential for this mahi. We will also have to focus our thinking about how the Ageing Well course, and any follow up Ageing Well Network, can be financially sustainable after the first few years of investment.

Mahi ahead

In 2019, we will be working with seniors/kaumātua, their whānau and their supports to design a network that will allow them to age well and stay connected in their own homes, and help fight isolation and loneliness. This, and preparing to welcome the residents of the 25 new homes, are our two major pieces of community development work for 2019. We are funded for this work in 2019 by the Methodist Church of Aotearoa, the Hutt City Council, the Hutt Valley DHB and the Office for Seniors. This network will potentially include activities such as:

- utilising the Timebank as a mechanism for people to make meaningful connections with others, and to facilitate practical help such as transport to and from medical appointments or learning new skills. We have joined the Hutt Timebank and have already experienced many benefits from this – including having Timebank members providing support/help with activities at our Ageing Well course and facilitating individual Timebank exchanges that allow seniors/kaumātua to stay engaged with the community.
- coordinating access to affordable services and organising events that help save costs, such as shopping trips to the supermarket, gardening or using a home handy-person. This might also involve accessing and providing services through the Timebank.
- filling gaps in community and connecting people to existing social and exercise opportunities like walking groups, or learning new crafts and skills
- shared meals
- helping others when you can and advocating for each other when in need

- advocating for policy change, or community-wide activities and facilities that are needed in an age-friendly community.

There is a need within our community for people to contribute to others and to the community as a whole. Our vision is for people who are often disempowered through their circumstances, to regain a sense of value and self-worth by actively contributing their skills and time within their community. Wesley Community Action looks for every opportunity to facilitate people's ability to contribute to others because of the huge benefits a sense of contribution brings to that individual and the whole community.

We will be also spending some time focusing on how we can ensure that this mahi is inclusive, especially for the Māori and Pacific seniors/kaumātua in our community.

By the end of 2019, we will have a co-designed project plan that will allow us to grow this network. We will partner with other initiatives on a similar journey across New Zealand.

5. WĀHI HUI / GATHERING SPACE: Hosting community



People of all ages gather at our Community Connect lunches, run in partnership with Brothers and Sisters and the Hutt Timebank.

We are privileged to be the kaitiaki of this community resource and to host and manaaki the community. Everyone, old and young, has something to contribute to our space. We have spent the last year or so building events and opportunities for people to connect and spend time with each other.

We entered into a partnership with a local young people's arts collective called Brothers and Sisters who lived onsite and experimented with prototype events to see what was feasible at the Village. They explored and prototyped a number of different initiatives including a village-wide compost scheme which diverted 730 litres of food waste from landfill and build good relationships. We and Brothers and Sisters joined up with the Hutt Timebank and, funded by the Working Together More Fund, tried out different ways for people to be involved and contribute to each other's lives. Through this range of events we had a great number of people engaged. In 2018 we:

- held 126 events
- had 1040 visits to the Village – many of them people returning regularly
- facilitated 41 timebank exchanges totaling 122 hours

We also formed partnerships with local organisation and individuals. These partnerships allowed us to offer and host and prototype a lovely range of events and events for our community, from tree plantings and craft projects to a community cinema, yoga and movement classes.

We've also prototyped a programme called Connect with Tech in which young people provide technology to older people and hosted young Naenae filmmakers taking part in the 48-hour film festival. Our surrounding bush has provided a place for kids' storytelling events, and an opportunity to build pest traps. We have been supporting the piloting of a weekly Positive Seniors Club, run by a local woman who wants to bring together seniors/kaumātua for a chance to chat, play cards and connect.

One of our most successful, and ongoing events is our monthly community lunches where we regularly have 30 or more people join us for lunch and connection.

We formed a Community Guiding Group of key partners, contacts and residents who meet

regularly to help guide our mahi at the Village and share ideas about what to do. They also get the chance to share with us what they're doing and their dreams and worries for their community.

We have always rented out the Rec Hall but have now started to rent out our other venues and rooms² for external events like team planning days, community events and workshops, a birthday party and even conferences requiring accommodation at the old Strand resthome. It has been great to have all of this life and activity at the Village.

Theory of change and link to outcome

Hosting community at the Village helps people to connect and end loneliness. It also brings together generations and will build a positive attitude to ageing. Having lots of community events gives everyone chance to contribute to each other's lives: doing the dishes, giving someone a ride, building a rat trap, helping you work your mobile phone, bringing food, or just having a good conversation – it's all valued. All of these events and connections build trust in the community and partnerships that we can draw on to achieve our outcomes.

These community events link to the following strategic outcomes:

- **Whanaungatanga** | Connectedness – People spark connection to end loneliness
- **Whakatipuranga** | Generations – All stages of life are celebrated, and generations mingle together to support wellness
- **Ngākau reka** | Attitudes – A positive attitude to ageing flourishes
- **Koha** | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued

Mahi tahi – collaborations

Brothers and Sisters and the Hutt Timebank have been key collaborators with us on hosting at Wesley Rātā Village. They have worked with others to hold great events such as Naenae Community Cinema, Naenae Nature Trust, the Positive Seniors Club, Naenae Clubhouse, Wā Ora and Enviroschools.

We want to host events at the Village in partnership with others, and the events we have held so far with these collaborators are a great example of what can be done.

Our Community Guiding Group is a 6-weekly get together of our key community collaborators (including the residents association) to share and scheme about what's next.

Lessons learnt

1. Using our rooms and resources to host the community at the Village without many staff is full of challenges! These include health and safety, organisation, booking systems, dishes, access to the right rooms, and running out of milk halfway through the day. With good intentions and humour we are working out the kinks as we go and building processes to make things run smoothly. We need to find resources to make some of our rooms more accessible to people and put the right processes in place. The areas we wish to use were not purpose-built for the activities we want to use them for, for example hiring a room out to a community group. They

² <http://www.wesleyca.org.nz/what-we-do/wesley-rata-village/venues-for-hire/>

are in the process of being transformed into such areas and need considerable investment to make them fit for purpose.

2. Hosting events and letting others use our facilities and be a part of the running of the Village (through, for example the Community Guiding Group) helps solidify relationships that are beneficial to us meeting our mission. For example, through having lots of events that people are welcomed to, we get information from locals about local issues and connections that will tailor our work and bring us the resources we need.
3. If you ask people to help, they will. If you set things up so it is easy to pick up a tea towel and do the dishes, people will.
4. Having an experimental attitude allows us to prototype events and evolve them quickly (for example our Connect with Tech skills-sharing event) at low cost and find out if they are practical or not.
5. Events can be highly valued by the attendees, but not reach mass appeal (for example our Keep Moving fitness class). Communications, partnerships and promotion is an important focus for this year now that we have ironed out many of our own processes.
6. There is demand for venue hire, and we can make an income from this, but we are not currently set up to so. We will need to examine how we might best organise ourselves to meet this demand.

Mahi ahead

We will keep working with our partners and others to make the Village a vibrant community asset that supports wellbeing and resilience. We will in particular keep hosting and growing the monthly lunches, and the weekly Positive Seniors Club, and we will continue to experiment with our community about what else people want and will come to.

Our partnership with Brothers and Sisters has allowed us to experiment with what the community wants and needs and bring new events and activities to the Village. We want Wesley Rātā Village to be full of bumping and reflection spaces for the community to connect and support wellbeing and resilience. We will host events that let people connect with nature, and practice art, creativity and spirituality so that they can connect and be inspired to dream about the future and what they can achieve.

It is important that we have these events running well and part of the kawa of the Village before the new residents arrive. We can also use the skills we have gathered in hosting these events to hold the right kinds of events to welcome the new residents. This is part of one of our two major workstreams for 2019 – preparing for our new residents.

We will also look for ways to increase our sustainability by hiring out our venues. In 2019, as we build 25 new homes, there will be disruption and noise and traffic. This will limit some of the events that we can hold.

We also will be continuing to work with Te Mangungu, as our local marae and Wesley's Tikanga Advisors, on how we can work in partnership to ensure that the Village is a community asset which brings to life our principle of **Kia hōnore te Tiriti** | Honouring the Treaty – connections are strengthened with whānau, hapū and iwi.

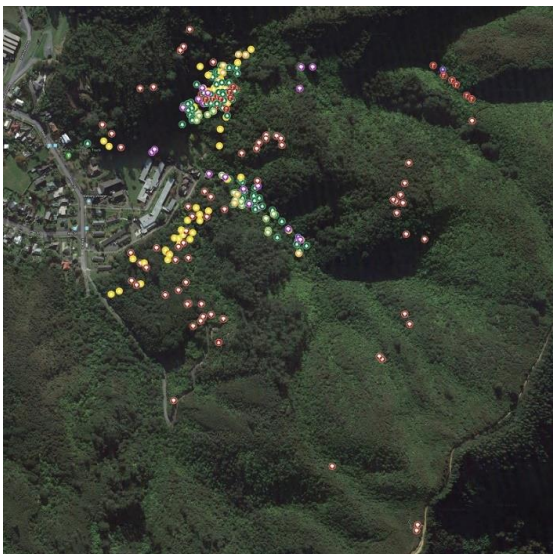
6. TĀIAO / NATURE: Restoring the bush and environment so it can help restore us



Our forest is one of the Village's precious assets, for now and future generations.

We are lucky to be the current kaitiaki of a large piece of regenerating native bush. An active group of people regularly walk through the current Rātā Street Loop Track. Some run, some take their dogs, some seek reflective quiet space, some collect rongoā or work to help the bush regenerate. This secluded patch of bush boarding suburbia provides many opportunities. We have built a really good relationship with the Naenae Nature Trust to help us bring the community into the bush and help us bring the bush out into the wider community.

Over the last year, with our support, Naenae Nature Trust and the community have planted more than 250 trees on our piece of land. A focus has been on restoring Rākau Rangatira (chiefly trees) that will be still growing in hundreds or thousands of years, and other plants under-represented in our bush. We have also welcomed primary and preschool groups to the Village to experience our bush environment, and learn about the trees and rivers and wildlife.



Map of trees planted at the Village

We have been having conversations and hui with Te Mangungu Marae leadership to establish a relationship with them as our local Marae. One of the aspects of partnership with them will be on the kaitiakitanga of our whenua/land and ngāhere/forest.

Theory of change and link to outcome

Nurturing and connecting with nature gives people the chance to contribute and feel connected – both to each other and to papatūānuku and te taiao/environment. Taking part in learning about and protecting our natural world helps people to plan and think about the future too. If we want our grandchildren to have huge trees to climb or rest under, we need to plant them today. The same is true of other good things in our lives.

These activities link with the following strategic outcomes:

- Takune | Intention – People plan for their own and their community's future
- Whanaungatanga | Connectedness – People spark connection to end loneliness
- Koha | Contribution – Everyone's contribution is encouraged and valued

Mahi tahi – collaborations

Our main collaborator on connecting with nature is the Naenae Nature Trust. This collaboration has seen lots of great activity and ideas and we look forward to more. We also work with the Hutt City Council on conservation and getting people into nature, especially around the Rata Street Loop Track, which they maintain on our property.

Lessons learnt

1. We need to find ways to resource our nature-connection mahi and there are opportunities to do so. Many of the trees that the Naenae Nature Trust have planted at the Village have been gifted by the people of New Zealand through Trees That Count³.
2. Connection with nature, conservation and pest control brings a different audience to the Village. For the sake of a diverse, energetic community we should encourage conservation activities.
3. Partnerships based on trust are able to bring many benefits. Our relationship with the Naenae Nature Trust has connected us to a range of the community.

Mahi ahead

We will be continuing to build on our partnership with the Naenae Nature Trust to host groups in our bush, to plant more trees and undertake pest control, and to investigate nurturing new seedlings through a nursery onsite.

We will run a survey of the Rata Street Loop Track to see who is using it and invite them to be

³ <https://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/blog/2018/october/bringing-the-r%C4%81t%C4%81-back-to-rata-street/>

active in the protection of nature.

We will continue to build on our dream of a super-accessible walking track on the valley floor that will allow everyone, regardless of ability or stage of life, to spend time in nature and experience the benefits of that. We will partner with the disability community on this dream.

We will partner with Village residents and local schools to grow a relationship between their students and nature, through kaitiakitanga of this precious piece of native bush.

We will prioritise work on the above projects where there is a link to our major piece of work preparing for the residents of the 25 new homes – a connection to nature will be a key arm to the welcoming, kawa-building processes.

Funding and resourcing

Wesley Community Action has made a big investment in the transition from Wesleyhaven to Wesley Rātā Village. This has allowed us to explore, test and craft a new vision.

Current support

We are very grateful for the financial support we have already been given to support our vision and would like to thank the following organisations:

- The Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Hutt City Council, and Office for Seniors which have given us grants to explore our Ageing Well work.
- The Hutt Valley District Health Board which has committed to funding some places on the Aging Well course for seniors/kaumātua in the Hutt.
- The Working Together More Fund which invested in our partnership with Brothers and Sisters and the Hutt Timebank, resulting in a solid and successful partnership that is ongoing.
- The Methodist Trust Association which has loaned us the funds to make the new build possible and the Ministry of Housing and Urban development which will provide future funding to support tenants.
- The Hutt Mana Charitable Trust and the Pelorus Trust which have both helped to fund upgrades of our buildings so we can make them more available to others in the community.

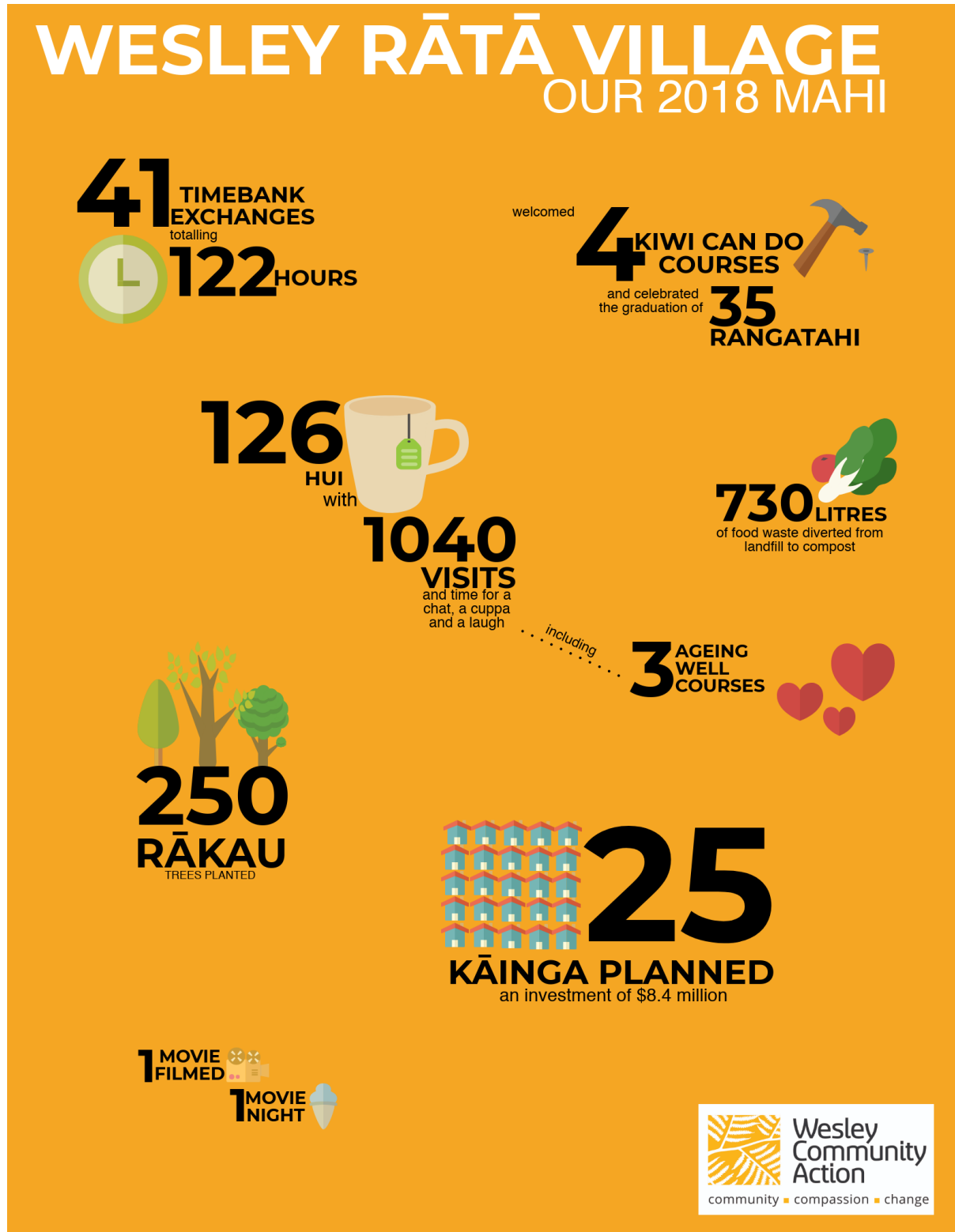
Future support

Our vision is expansive. There are many opportunities and needs for future funding support to build a sustainable Village. These include:

- Investing in the Ageing Well Network and associated activities to end loneliness and isolation among older people.
- Investing in our facilities to make them accessible to as many people as possible.
- Building a super-accessible walking track on the site.
- Protecting native species and controlling pests.
- Providing community workers to work alongside residents of the Village and of Naenae to help them achieve their goals and build their community.
- Developing playgroups for the Naenae community, especially isolated whānau.
- Developing a retreat / learning centre or a functions venue in the former Strand resthome.

We will continue to work with potential investors and funders on these initiatives as we develop the Village.

Facts and figures and their stories



Ageing Well course



We hear over and over again from our Ageing Well course members that they don't think they'll like it, or they aren't really group people. But with encouragement, they come and find out that in the right place they ARE group people! We only meet once a week but even just a few weeks in are greeting each other with hugs and kisses and laughter like old friends.

They are making real connections with each other that extend outside the Ageing Well course. At a round of conversation at the start of one session, a member told us of a horrible week she had had which then was saved by her "angel" calling to see how she was. The "angel" was fellow member of the group (one of the volunteers) who had taken it upon herself to call around to see how people were going. With this culture building one of the other ladies in the group phoned to chat and on discovering that her fellow group member was feeling low at the time, she got in her car with a bunch of flowers and spent time lifting the mood for her. On hearing that one of our members had recently gone into hospital-level care in Heretaunga, a Timebank member/Coffee Group volunteer said she lived not far away and would visit him.

M's story

M was a delightful member of our first Ageing Well course early in 2017. Our group facilitator, Tracey chatted with M who identified that she loved to sew and had extensive experience sewing, including over 50 wedding dresses!

However, M kept saying that she had been told she was 'not allowed' to sew anymore and really missed it. So now for us to work out a way for her to get sewing again!

Tracey invited the Hutt Timebank Coordinator to come and talk to the group about the Boomerang Bags project they oversee. Tracey provided a sewing machine, and the Timebank Coordinator bought fabric and talked with the group about the project which aims to reduce the use of plastic bags by sewing reusable cloth bags. During this session, members of the group cut out bags, and M started sewing handles for the bags.

M absolutely loved the opportunity to sew, and also to be helping others, and kept asking Tracey when she could sew again – so Tracey and the Timebank Coordinator put up a request in the Timebank asking for someone to come to M's home on regular basis and help her sew. A Timebank member, A (who had previously been a nurse and had great passion for working with people with dementia), responded – Tracey met with her at M's home, introduced the two who hit it off immediately.

A began regularly visiting M and supported her to sew. M now sews handles for the Petone Boomerang Bag group. She thoroughly enjoys this and has a real sense of satisfaction about being able to contribute to this project. A and M now have lots of contact with each other – this involves practical support (A drives M to the Ageing Well Coffee Group and is part of the group herself now) and friendship.

You should see these two enter the Ageing Well Coffee Group each week. M brings so much joy

and laughter and credits A with her having such a great time, getting out and about instead of being alone and at home. Tracey keeps in touch with M's daughter who lives overseas and who is thrilled to see her mum thriving in these new friendships and activities.

Nature and tamariki



Partnering with the Naenae Nature Trust has given us many great chances to bring the magic of our precious piece of bush to the community. One extra-special day was hosting the Naenae Nature Trust storytelling event. A group of tamariki and their whānau came to the Village, played in the Rec Hall and then headed into the bush. There they found the local librarian settled under a tree, ready to read them a book.

After the book they wandered around for a play in the bush. They then stumbled upon

a puppet show all set up and ready to go deep in the forest. The puppet show was about a tuna/eel living in an awa and the importance of keeping our rivers and streams clean. The puppeteer has travelled this show around the country but had never before had the songs of live birds and the sound of a real river mingle in with her recorded soundtrack.

The whānau who came described the day as magical.

Positive Seniors Club

Tess, a local woman, wanted to start a seniors club. She talked to other groups in the community who suggested she come and talk to us. We were delighted to be able to support her in setting up this club, and providing a venue. Each week now a small group of seniors/kaumātua meet, chat, play cards laugh, and scheme with each other about how they are going to grow their group. We are able to provide the backbone support that lets Tess and the others bring this group together each week. With our gentle support they can be in control. We just provide reassurance when things aren't going right, encouragement when they are, a bit of practical help with the petty cash and the tea supplies that keep them going.

Community Connects lunches

Tracey and Kena were waiting nervously for people to start arriving for the first Community Connects Lunch of the year. They felt like they were having a party that they didn't know if anyone was going to. But the door opened and in poured a room full of people, all laughing and catching up on their Christmas and New Year, meeting new people, and settling in like old friends. The BBQ was being tended to by a couple of the residents. When Kena told them she had got the lettuce for the salad from Wesley Cannons Creek's community garden they said that next time they'll bring the lettuce from their shared garden at the Village which was growing great guns. Half way through the meal, a woman who lives down the road showed up with a lemon cake still warm from her oven. She had never been to the lunch before but got a cheer with the arrival of the cake, and shouts of "who bought the cream?"

Partners and networks who have helped us on this journey so far

- Airedale Property Trust
- Bea Joblin
- Brothers and Sisters Collective
- Christchurch Methodist Mission
- Common Unity
- Department of Conservation
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Eastern Bay Villages
- EasyBuild
- Hutt City Council
- Hutt Mana Charitable Trust
- Hutt Timebank
- Hutt Valley District Health Board
- Innovate Change
- Kapiti Lighthouse
- Kemi+Niko
- Kiwi Can Do
- Kokiri Marae Health and Social Service
- Lifewise
- Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- Naenae Clubhouse
- Naenae College
- Naenae Community Cinema
- Naenae Nature Trust
- Office for Seniors – MSD
- Pacific Health Service
- Pelorus Trust
- Regional Public Health
- St Davids Naenae
- Stratmore
- Te Mangungu Marae
- The Methodist Trust Association
- Trade School Kitchen
- Vibe
- Vogelmorn Residents Association
- Wā Ora
- Wellington Community Trust
- Wesley Village Residents Association