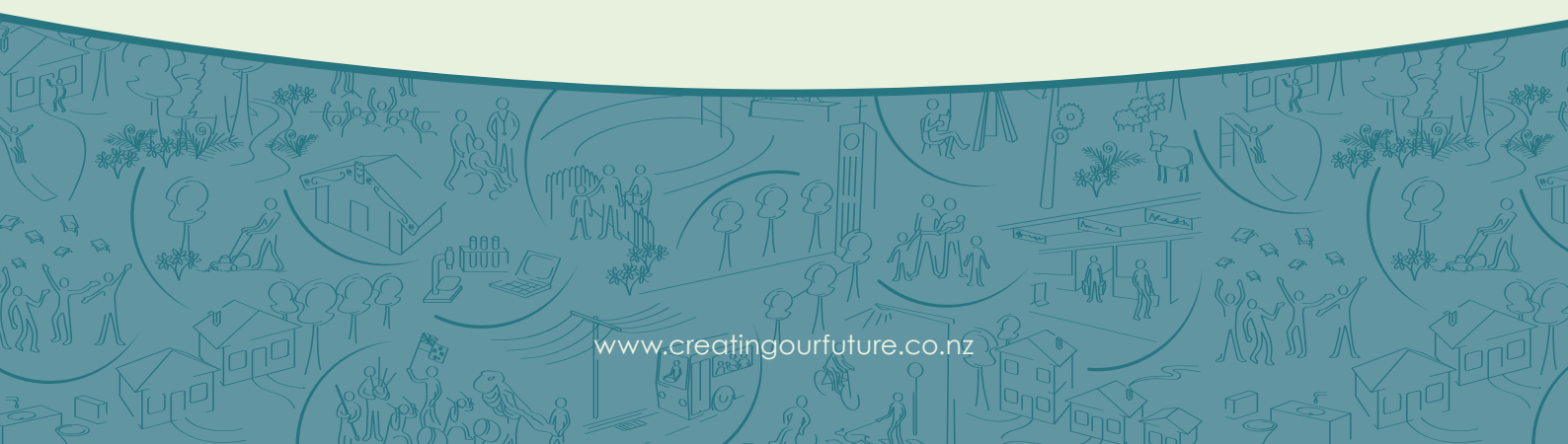




# Palmerston North: the Big Picture

*An album of snapshots of who we are today*



## Palmerston North: the Big Picture

This document paints the big picture of Palmerston North. It provides a summary – a snapshot - of trends and issues relating to who we currently are as a city, based on information that has been drawn from a range of sources.

It has been developed around a number of things that residents have identified as being of importance to the city. These are:

- Rangitaane
- Ethnic diversity
- Jobs & business
- Innovation & research
- Housing
- Standard of living
- Health
- Safety
- Education & skills
- Community spirit
- Community support
- Character & design
- Urban growth
- Infrastructure
- Movement & transport
- Natural environment
- Leisure & recreation

The document complements the material contained in the pamphlet *Creating our future: A look at who we are today and who we could be in 10 years time* by providing more detailed information about Palmerston North today.

# Contents

*Page*

**An overview: a city gearing for growth** ..... 3

**Community outcome: the snapshots**

Rangitaane ..... 5

Ethnic diversity ..... 6

Jobs and business ..... 7

Innovation and research ..... 8

Housing ..... 9

Standard of living ..... 10

Health ..... 11

Safety ..... 12

Education and skills ..... 13

Community spirit ..... 15

Community support ..... 16

Character and design ..... 17

Urban growth ..... 18

Infrastructure ..... 19

Movement and transport ..... 20

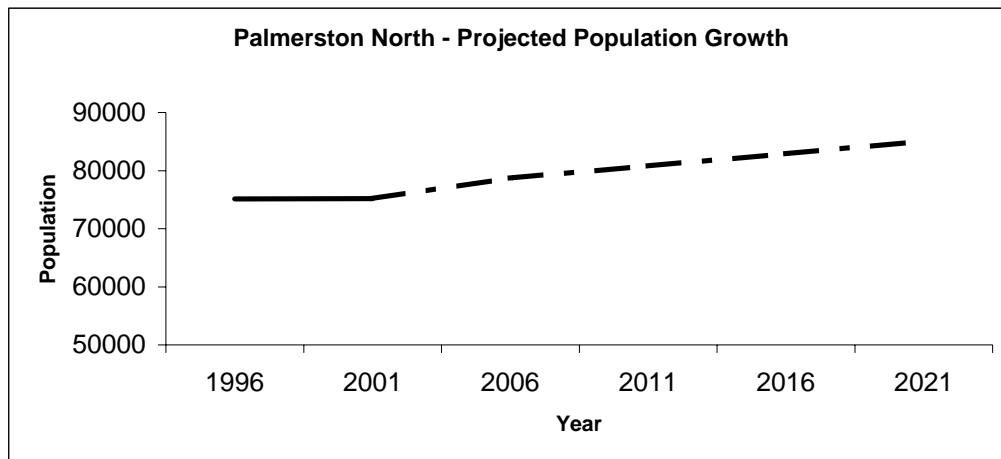
Natural environment ..... 21

Leisure and recreation ..... 22

## An overview: a city gearing for growth

Our current population of 78,100<sup>1</sup> makes up about 2 percent of New Zealand's population.

After a time of no growth during the mid - late 1990s, our population started to grow between 2001 and 2003. This trend will continue: over the next 20 years our population is expected to grow by about 15 percent<sup>2</sup> (see graph below). Most of this growth will come from an increase in births over deaths.



Our city's growth will be at a slower rate than the national average. The Manawatu-Wanganui region is not expected to grow at all.

The number of households in our city will grow at a slightly faster rate, reaching 34,100 by 2021. Much of this growth will come from an increase in one-person households.

Our average family size is shrinking, dropping from about 2.7 people in each household to 2.5 people. Our family make-up is similar to the rest of the country, though because of our higher number of young people, we have slightly fewer couples with children.

Over a quarter of us (27 percent) are aged between 15 and 29 years. Nationwide this group is 20 percent of the population. Our average age is 31 years, compared with 35 nationally. Our younger age is largely explained by the high number of tertiary students living here, many of whom are enrolled at Massey, UCOL and Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

In 2002 nearly 12,500 students were studying for higher level qualifications. A further 18,000 were enrolled in non-degree related training. About 2,000 of these students are from other countries.

Despite the age lowering effect of students on our population, we, like the rest of New Zealand, are an aging community. The number of people under 15 years is expected to drop

<sup>1</sup> Statistics New Zealand estimate for June 2004

<sup>2</sup> Statistics New Zealand; Annual Population Estimates up to 2003; 2006 -2021 projections

by 11 percent. The number between 15 and 64 years will increase by 12 percent. But the real increase will be seen in the 65years-plus age group, which will increase by 60 percent.

This means that as a city we will have to grapple with managing possibly competing needs - different age groups want different things. For example, education, recreation and cultural activities are important for the young; health and care services are important for the elderly.

More of us identify ourselves as European/Pakeha (85 percent) than other large New Zealand cities (80 percent). The number of us who are Maori is in line with the national average.

<b>Comparing Palmerston North with New Zealand</b>		
	<i>Palmerston North</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>
Median age	31 years	35 years
People aged under 15	21%	23%
People aged 15 -29	27%	20%
People aged 65 and over	11%	12%
European	85%	80%
Maori	14%	15%
Couples with children	40% of all families	42% of all families
Couples with no children	40% of all families	39% of all families
One-parent families	20% of all families	19% of all families

*Source:*

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001 & Population Estimate 2004

Palmerston North City Council, Tertiary Education - A View of Palmerston North, 2003

## Palmerston North today: the snapshots

This section provides a summary – a snapshot - of who we are as a city, based on information we've drawn from a range of sources.

### *Rangitaane*

*We recognise Rangitaane as our tangata whenua. Their values, perspectives and contributions are increasingly respected and supported.*

**Rangitaane are tangata whenua of Palmerston North. As the first peoples of Aotearoa, the connection between Maori and this land began hundreds of years before the arrival of other peoples and cultures. It is important that as we change and grow as a city and community, that we continue to respect and celebrate the history, values, culture and special places of Rangitaane.**

### *The snapshot*

New Zealand has seen a strong and dynamic building of Maori over recent years. Today, Rangitaane provide significant leadership locally in areas such as health, education and environmental management. They are also an important part of our city's major celebrations, special occasions and ceremonies.

For Rangitaane, having an ongoing and effective role in the development of the city is a priority. In recent years the iwi has formed formal and informal relationships with many different organisations from government agencies to community groups.

Their role is growing in very practical ways. They are furthering the economic development of iwi interests through tribal and sub-tribal structures, and through customary and current day structures. The iwi has signed formal agreements with a number of the city's organisations. The ongoing development and work of Rangitaane will be supported by resources that will be freed by the resolution of the iwi's claims currently before the Waitangi Tribunal. These are expected to be resolved in the next 10 years.

## Ethnic Diversity

*We are less culturally diverse than the national average but we are accepting of other cultures.*

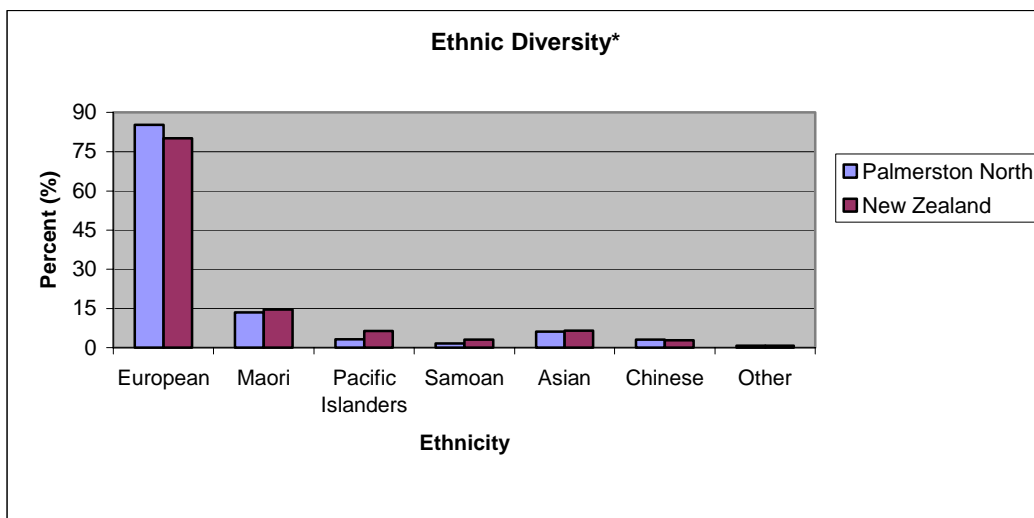
**Embracing people of other cultures makes our city and community more vibrant. A city that accepts and reflects a wide range of different cultures is more likely to be a tolerant and connected society.**

### The snapshot

Ethnically we are a less diverse city than the rest of New Zealand. Around five percent more of us claim European heritage (85 percent). Not surprising then, English is the most common language spoken in the city (93 percent of us) followed by Maori (spoken by 4 percent of us). However over 10 percent of us (11 percent) speak two languages.

With a strong international reputation, our tertiary institutions draw students from 116 different countries. In 2002, international students made up just over 8 percent of all tertiary enrolments. Most - 75 percent - come from Asia.

While our ethnic diversity is less than the national average, we are generally accepting of other cultures. Most of us (70 percent) think ethnic diversity makes a better city. In a recent survey of New Zealand's eight largest cities - North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin - only 60 percent agreed with this view.



NB: People could claim more than one ethnicity, so figures may run over 100%

### Source:

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001  
Palmerston North City Council, City Vision Survey, 2003  
Eight Cities Quality of Life Survey, 2002

## Jobs and Business

*We have recently experienced solid job and business growth.*

**To be prosperous we need a strong and varied economic base. Our ability to build a healthy local economy - both for today and tomorrow – depends on how well we can grow employment and business opportunities.**

### *The snapshot*

Our economy is showing solid growth, with an estimated long-term average growth rate of between 2.5 and 3.0 percent per year. Bio-commerce (eg. Fonterra, New Zealand Pharmaceuticals), smart business<sup>3</sup> (eg. Ezibuy, R&D Solutionz), and integrated education<sup>4</sup> (eg. Massey University, UCOL) are our priority industries for future growth. These were identified in the 2002 Regional Economic Development Strategy. Retail, government administration and defence, and health and community services industries are also priorities for us.

After a decline during the late 1990s/early 2000s employment and business numbers are on an upswing. Between 2001 and 2003, full time employment increased by 10.5 percent across all industries. The national average was 6.7 percent. Over three quarters of this growth was fuelled by job increases in:

- government administration and defence (990 jobs)
- health and community services (670 jobs)
- transport and storage (380 jobs)
- manufacturing (320 jobs)
- retail trade (300 jobs).

During the same time business numbers also grew, by five percent. Property and Business Services contributed most to this growth with 107 new businesses reported. Other industry areas also reported growth, except for the Finance and Insurance sector, which showed a slight decrease in business numbers.



### *Source:*

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001

Statistics New Zealand; Quarterly Employment Survey, September 2003

Vision Manawatu, Strategy for the Sustainable Economic Development of the Manawatu Region, April 2002

<sup>3</sup> Smart businesses are ones that become increasingly entrepreneurial because they have systems in place that improve knowledge about what they do best.

<sup>4</sup> 'Integrated education' refers to the offering of integrated courses across learning disciplines and between tertiary education institutes, business and the community.

## ***Innovation and Research***

*We have a significant concentration of research units and centres located here.*

**Education, bio-technology and 'smart' business are the industries of the future; the industries that will fuel economic growth and success. To develop and grow these business streams we need local business that are focused on innovation and research, that are developing products and prototypes. We also need investment – from both private and public sectors.**

### ***The snapshot***

With an established reputation as a centre of research and education, we are well placed as a city of the future. Today, we have 52 known research and development units or research centres. Massey University's city campus is home to 48 research centres. A further four are located with the Crown Research Institutes: AgResearch, Landcare Research, NZ Institute for Crop and Food Research, and Horticulture and Food Research Institute of NZ.

A number of private sector organisations including Fonterra, Leather and Shoe, NZ Sports Turf Institute and NZ Pharmaceuticals Ltd also undertake research and development.

Most of these centres maintain a high research and development profile. Important for their contribution to the local and national economies, many are also regarded as national and/or international centres of research excellence.

### ***Source:***

Massey University ([www.massey.ac.nz](http://www.massey.ac.nz))

Vision Manawatu, Strategy for the Sustainable Economic Development of the Manawatu Region, April 2002

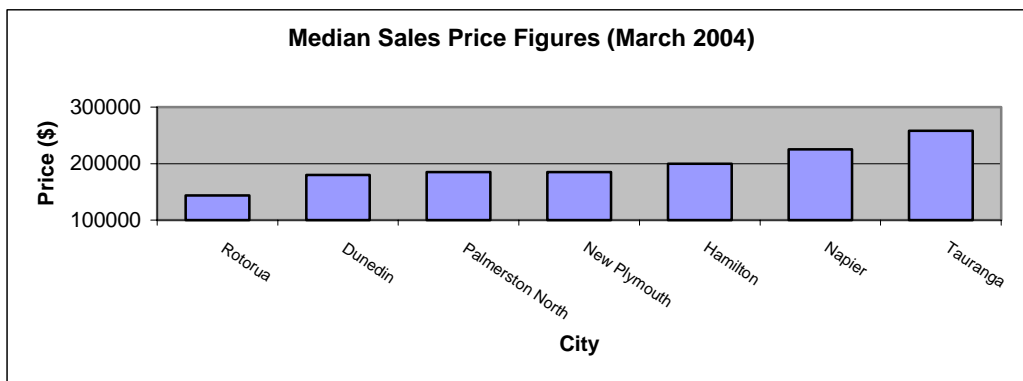
## Housing

*Like the rest of New Zealand, we have a relatively high number of people living in houses they own.*

**People need houses. Housing greatly affects our health and the quality of life that we can enjoy. Decent housing, that is affordable and conveniently located, builds our sense of well being. It makes it easier for us to find and keep work, to study and to get involved in social activities.**

### *The snapshot*

In home ownership, Palmerston North closely mirrors the rest of New Zealand: of our 26,091 households, almost two-thirds were owner occupied (with or without a mortgage). The remaining households were rental or other forms of accommodation. Although Palmerston North house prices are higher than the regional median they still compare favourably with other centres.



The two main providers of the city's public housing are Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) and the Palmerston North City Council. HCNZ currently provides 1,546 rental houses, the Council a further 403 units. Eighty percent of the Council's properties - 311 properties are set aside for mainly elderly tenants and for people with special needs. The other 92 units are rented to the public.

Over the last three years, the monthly HNZC waiting list in the wider Palmerston North, Feilding, Rongotea area had an average of 154 people, with individual totals ranging from 121 to 199. The one percent of applicants assessed as having a severe and ongoing housing need waited seven days for a property. The 20 percent who had a significant and ongoing housing need were housed within 43 days. The 53 percent assessed as having a moderate housing need were housed within 138 days and the 26 percent with a low level need waited 176 days.

Applicants also have to wait for Council units. The occupancy rate hovers around 96 – 97 percent and on average there are 25 applications for community housing. At any one time there are, on average, six applications for the one-bedroom units, 15 for the two-bedroom units and 12 for the three-bedroom units.

### *Source:*

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001  
AMP & Massey University, Home Affordability Report, September 2004  
Real Estate Institute of New Zealand, Housing Facts, March 2004  
Palmerston North City Council, Housing Policy, 2000  
Housing New Zealand Corporation, Waiting List Statistics, 2004

## ***Standard of Living***

*We enjoy a standard of living that most New Zealanders experience.*

**Palmerston North's standard of living reflects how well we can afford to live. We all need shelter, food, clothing and health. But our standard of living also includes how well we're able to enjoy and take part in other activities such as education, recreation, and social, cultural and entertainment events.**

### ***The snapshot***

As with New Zealanders in many other cities, most of us enjoy an average standard of living<sup>5</sup>. However we don't have marked extremes of either poverty or wealth, compared to some other cities and districts.

Even so, some areas within the city experience a lesser standard of living than the rest of us: Highbury, Massey University, Awapuni North and Palmerston North Central.

The city is a more affordable centre of learning. The New Zealand University Students' Association reports that Palmerston North is the country's most affordable university city, with living costs of around \$228 per week compared with an average of \$260.

### ***Source:***

Wellington School of Medicine, Deprivation Index, 2001  
NZUSA, Student Income and Expenditure Survey, 2001.

---

<sup>5</sup> Standard of living measures are taken from the Wellington School of Medicine Deprivation Index, 2001. The Index measures social and economic advantages or disadvantages in an area. Information is from the 2001 census focuses on 10 aspects: income, employment, access to telephone and car, qualification, home ownership, living space and social support

## ***Health***

*We have good health that matches or betters the national average.*

**Good health is critical to well-being and independence. Without it, we're less able to enjoy our lives to the fullest; our work and social options may be limited and we may find ourselves unable to be as fully involved in the community.**

### ***The snapshot***

Generally the health we experience in Palmerston North is the same as or better than most New Zealanders. For example:

- we are discharged from hospital at a similar rate to other New Zealanders
- the most common reasons for hospital stays include pregnancy and childbirth, circulation related diseases and diseases of the digestive and musculoskeletal systems.

We enjoy favourable access to health services, with a good number of doctors and other community health groups, including Maori health providers. Mid-Central Health offers a full range of secondary services and also offers some regional services, for example its work with cancer treatment, haematology, renal and some neonatal services. Many government organisations providing health and social services are also located within our community. As we don't have to travel to access them, we're more likely to benefit from using them.

We have a growing focus on keeping people well rather than only treating them when they're ill. A Primary Health Organisation (PHO) is being set up to make services more readily available and more affordable, especially for the young and the elderly. Mid-Central Health is working to help primary health care services meet the community's needs. One example is the increased investment in managing ongoing conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

As our population ages there will be increasing pressure on our medical services. One solution is to get people to lead healthier lifestyles. This is a challenge. Regionally, our eating, smoking and exercise habits are similar to the national picture. And the challenge may increase – the growing national shortage of doctors may make it difficult to attract them here.

### ***Source:***

Mid-Central District Health Board

Regional Inter-agency Network, Stocktake of Government Strategies and Resources that Contribute to Social Development, March 2004

Medical Council of New Zealand, Medical Workforce, 2002

New Zealand Health Information Service

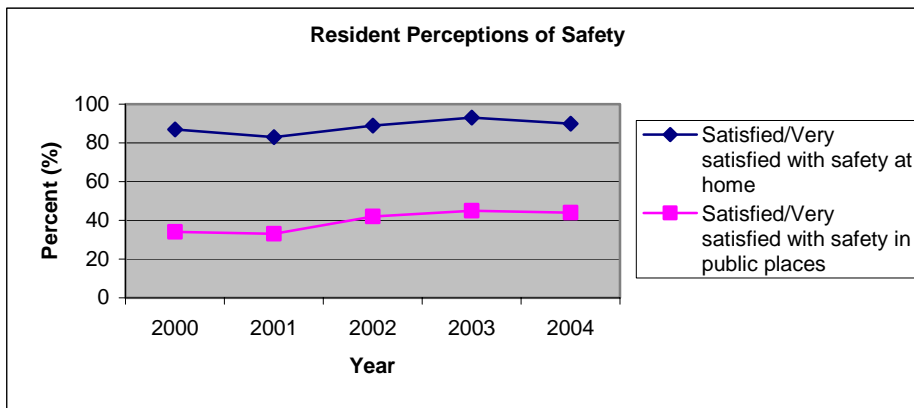
## Safety

*Safety has improved and we feel safer.*

**Safety affects us as individuals and as a community. At their most extreme, violence, crime and accidents threaten life. At the least, they reduce the quality of life we can enjoy. Even when we just feel at risk we're likely to limit our life experiences and activities.**

### The snapshot

We feel safer than we did five years ago. In the early 2000s, one-third of us were 'fairly satisfied' to 'delighted' with the safety in public places at night. Now, nearly half of us feel this way. We continue to feel a lot safer in our homes – still around 90 percent of us are satisfied with home safety.



Perhaps feeding into this is a lower level of reported crime, with a drop from 13,500 reported offences per year a decade ago to 10,000 in 2004. The most common offences are burglaries and theft from cars, with violent offences making up only 11 percent of reported crime. Stronger relationships between police and community groups and improvements in prevention and enforcement are thought to be behind the drop.

The number of road accidents causing injury or death has also dropped over the last decade. From the 147 injury accidents in 2003, we had two deaths, 30 serious casualties and 146 minor casualties.

Loss of control on rural roads and crashes at intersections are the most likely type of accident. Poor driving skills are regularly recorded as a contributing factor.

Speed and accidents involving motorcyclists or cyclists are other major road safety issues. Nationally, the major issues are speed, alcohol, failure to give way and lack of seat belt restraints.

### Source:

New Zealand Police

Land Transport Safety Authority

Palmerston North City Council, NRB Communitrak Survey, March 2004

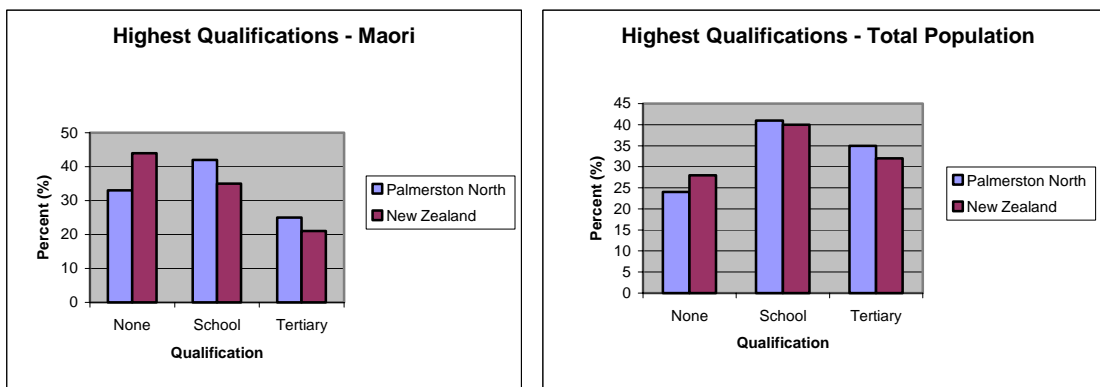
## Education and Skills

*We are better educated than the national average but like the rest of New Zealand, we are currently experiencing a skill shortage.*

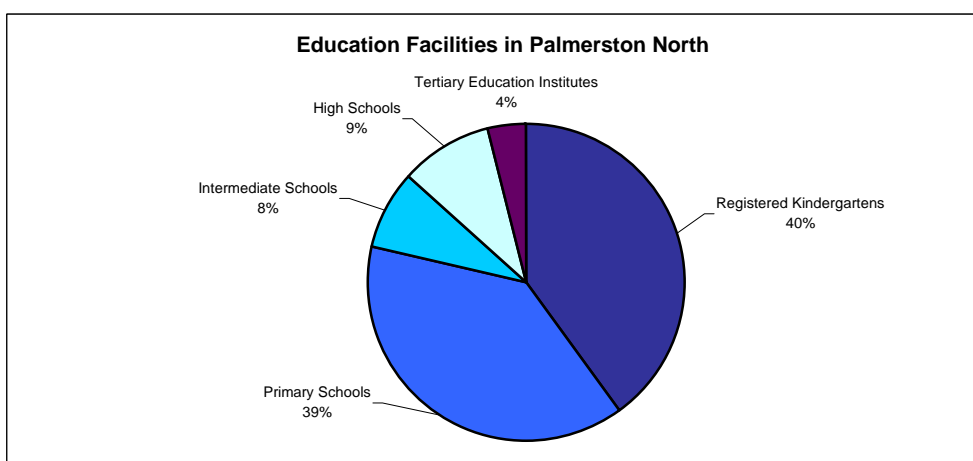
**Having knowledge and skills gives us more choices in life and makes it more likely that we'll enjoy a decent standard of living. More than that, the skills we have can build our sense of self worth, security and belonging.**

### The snapshot

We are more highly educated than the national population. More Palmerston North people, including Maori (4 percent more), hold secondary and tertiary qualifications than other New Zealanders.



We have over 75 education facilities, ranging from early childhood centres through to tertiary institutions. Early childhood and primary school aged children are particularly well served with 29 primary schools and around 30 registered kindergartens. Three public tertiary institutes and countless other training organisations offer courses in specialised and specific areas.



Overall our school leavers follow the national trend: in 2003 fewer students left school without a qualification. However our Maori students outperform their national counterparts – the number leaving school without a formal qualification is less than the national average by 10 percent.

The country is currently experiencing a skill shortage. Employers nationwide are unable to find staff with the skills they need. Here in Palmerston North we have particular shortages in:

- joiners and cabinetmakers
- carpenters
- plumbers and gasfitters
- auto electricians
- engineers
- hairdressers
- middle managers
- skilled labourers.

*Source:*

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001

Palmerston North City Council, Tertiary Education: A View of Palmerston North, 2003

Ministry of Education ([www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz))

Department of Labour, Skills in the Labour Market, August 2004

Tertiary Education Commission, Investigation into Skill Shortages and Foundation Skills in the Manawatu Region; October 2003

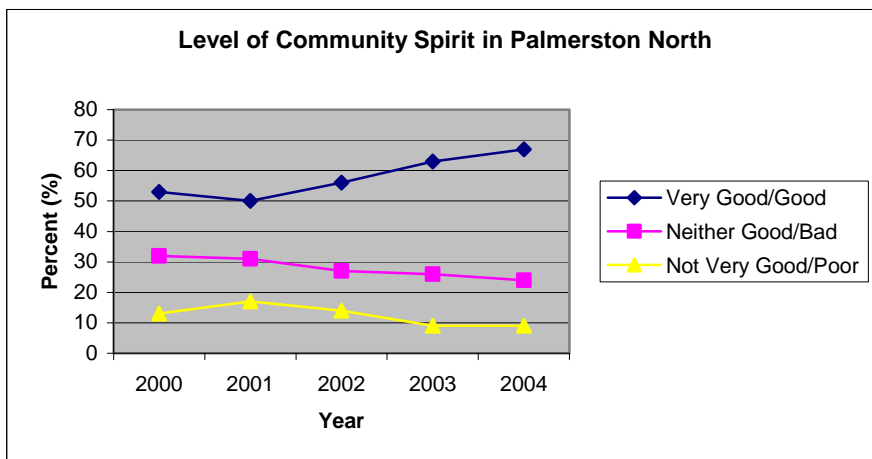
## Community Spirit

*Generally, we feel we have a good level of community spirit in the city.*

**When we're connected with our community we feel a sense of belonging; a sense of togetherness. We're more likely to feel pride in our area and to create a good atmosphere. In these ways community spirit is vital if we want a city where people support each other and work together towards a common future.**

### *The snapshot*

Generally, we feel good about our community. In fact, we feel better about it than we did five years ago. Two-thirds of us believe our community spirit is 'good' or 'very good'. Five years ago only half of us felt this way. Today, a quarter of us think it's neither good nor bad, and 10 percent think it's 'not very good' or 'poor'. These levels are in line with those of other similar sized cities.



Reasons people gave for a rating our community spirit as 'not very good' or 'poor' include:

- divided community interests
- the increase in self interest
- a need for events and activities that draw all people together
- the difficulty in making friends.

*Source:*

Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004.

## Community Support

*Our strong involvement in voluntary work is in line with other similar sized cities.*

**A supportive community is one in which we are connected to each other; where we build positive relationships with families, whanau, neighbours, iwi and colleagues. Supportive communities are fostered when our relationships and support networks are strong and when we all have the skills and opportunities to meet together positively in our daily lives.**

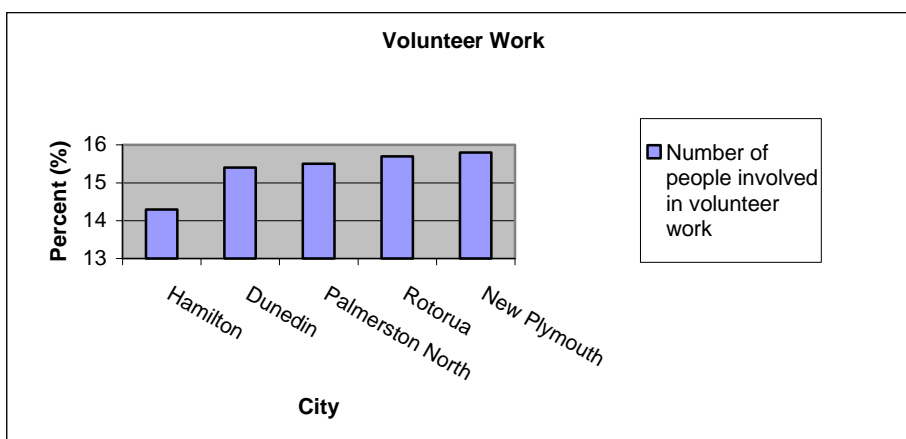
### *The snapshot*

Our needs and aspirations are as different as the individuals that make up our city. Helping us to meet those needs and aspirations are a wide and varied range of community and government organisations.

There are 35 central government agencies located in the city. Twenty-nine are involved in the social sector, providing many different types of services to the community. Several central government organisations coordinate and liaise with other agencies and community groups' programmes such as Strengthening Families, Social Workers in Schools, and the Safety Advisory Group.

We also benefit from a large and active voluntary sector that enriches our lives. We have 820 clubs, groups and organisations, all of which depend on our voluntary support. Our level of involvement in voluntary work (15.5 percent) compares favourably with other centres. From these voluntary organisations we gain:

- social support
- community-based advocacy
- education and skills development
- hobbies and interests
- active lifestyles and sports.



The Council too, provides community assistance<sup>6</sup>, and over half of us are satisfied with the current level of help. Five percent are not very satisfied.

### *Source:*

Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001.

Citizens Advice Bureau database – Clubs, groups and organisations, September 2004

<sup>6</sup> This includes, for instance, grants to community organisations and general support to community groups.

## ***Character and Design***

*Generally, we like the look and feel of our city.*

**How our city looks and how we express our cultural heritage can affect how we feel about our city. We identify with, and show pride in, Palmerston North when we take an interest in how it looks and feels; when we show respect for and honour our past.**

### ***The snapshot***

Generally we're satisfied with the way our city looks and feels - almost two-thirds of us (65 percent) are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'. We like that it's clean and tidy, that there are plenty of parks, green areas and places to walk.

Only 11 percent expressed some dissatisfaction, saying that the city is boring, drab and unappealing, that it's too old and needs a revamp and tidying up.

We continue to preserve our past. Today we have 60 protected heritage buildings. Most of these are commercial, religious and institutional buildings. Over half are located in the central city, while others are located in nearby neighbourhoods or on the Massey University campus.

Our heritage is more than buildings. We have seven protected sites of importance to Rangitaane. We also protect trees that are of historic, botanical and visual value. Over the last five years this has included 96 individual trees, 21 groups of trees and 15 areas of native bush.

#### ***Source:***

Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004  
Palmerston North City District Plan, December 2000

## ***Urban Growth***

*We are currently preparing for residential, commercial and industrial growth.*

**We are the major urban and industrial centre for the region. To provide for the region's long-term health we must plan ahead. We must be best placed to respond to the changes in our population and the changes and development of our local economy.**

### ***The snapshot***

Our growth as a city is guided by a 20-year urban growth strategy. This strategy ensures we continue to plan and prepare for future change.

Physically meeting the demands of a growing population is challenging. We must be mindful of our boundaries – the technical boundaries and the physical ones, such as the Manawatu River. We must be mindful, for example, that we have areas that are prone to flood and others that have high-class soils.

Over the past five years, an average of 228 new households have been built. This includes all new, infill and rural developments. This number is considered to be only a low to medium rate of growth. Taking into account our predicted population growth of 15 percent in the next 20 years, we can expect the household growth rate to increase to over 300 households per year.

In reviewing where we have room for these additional households, the two preferred areas for development are around State Highway 3 and Te Matai Road, and between Gillespies Line and Cloverlea Road.

For industrial development, the area to the north-east of Palmerston North airport presents a good opportunity. The zoning of the land now allows for the development of larger scale industry over the short to medium term. Longer term, other alternatives will be needed.

The face of our city's retailing is changing. There's a move towards fewer, larger retail outlets, which operate as destination centres. To help us maintain a dynamic commercial centre in the city, it is proposed that large format retail development be encouraged to locate to edges of the CBD.

### ***Source:***

Palmerston North City Council, Palmerston North Retail Study, 2003

Palmerston North City Council, Urban Growth Strategy, 2003

## Infrastructure

*Most of us are satisfied with our infrastructure.*

**To run well a city needs good roads and effective water supply, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste systems. These items of infrastructure not only affect our health and safety but also our ability to grow and develop our local economy.**

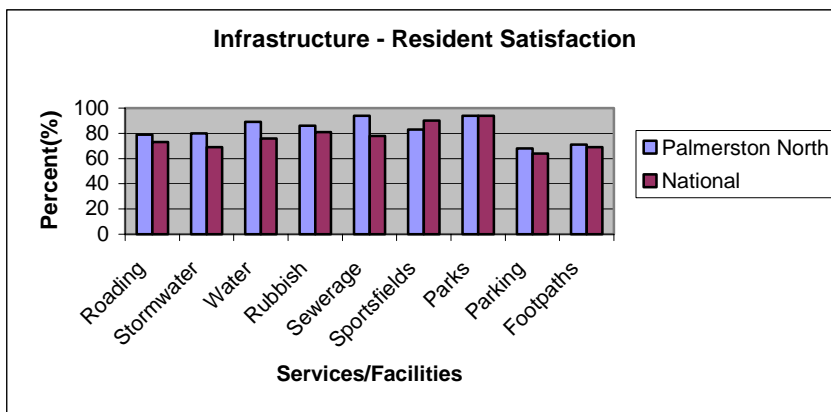
### The snapshot

Today our infrastructure is in good shape. We have good roads and footpaths, parks and reserves, solid waste and water supply systems. Currently, most Palmerston North people:

- receive a piped water supply (96 percent). The quality of that water and distribution has an Aa grading from the Ministry of Health<sup>7</sup>
- can connect to the city-wide sewerage system (97 percent)
- have regular rubbish collection (97 percent)
- have piped stormwater collection (79 percent).

We also have some 307 km of urban roads, 152 km of rural roads, 497 km of footpaths and over 6,100 on and off street public carparks. We have a generous amount of open space available for leisure and recreation - around 4.3 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Overall, we're satisfied with the level of service provided, particularly in such areas as sewage disposal, parks and reserves and water reticulation. These levels are in line with or greater than the national averages.



The Council maintains the good condition of our infrastructure through Asset Management Plans. These ensure all the city's assets are well maintained, perform to high environmental standards and can meet our future needs at the lowest possible cost.

### Source:

Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004

Palmerston North City Council, Roading and Parking, Recreation and Community Facilities, Waste Management, Wastewater, Water and Stormwater Asset Management Plans, 2003

<sup>7</sup> An Aa grading means that the city's water supply presents a minimum health risk to the public.

## Movement and Transport

*Our city is easy to get around and we enjoy good traffic flow.*

**Growing cities are cities on the move. To develop economically, socially and environmentally we need to be able to move around our city easily and efficiently. Auckland City's lack of good forward transport planning offers us a cautionary example to avoid.**

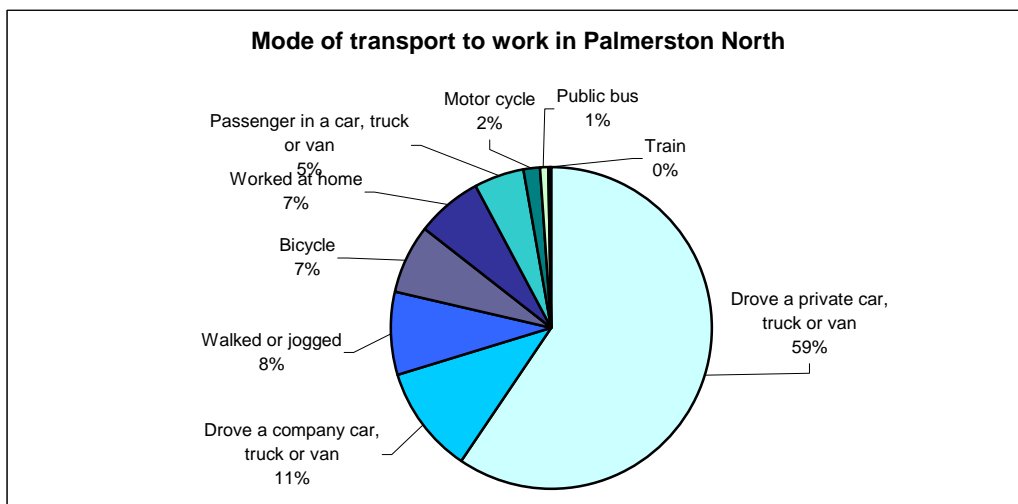
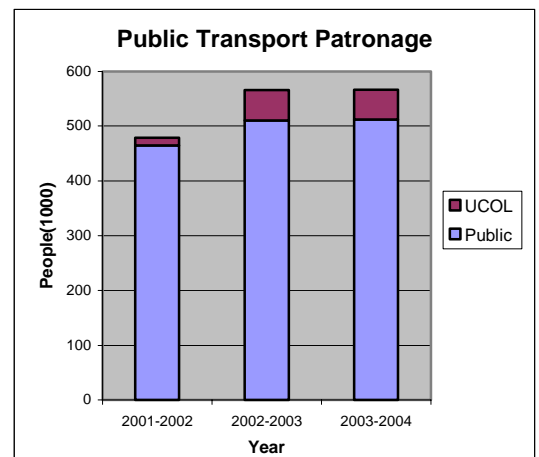
### The snapshot

Overall, whether on foot or by vehicle, we can move reasonably easily around Palmerston North.

Most of us are happy with off-peak traffic flows (97 percent). Our satisfaction drops for peak traffic flows (57 percent). These satisfaction rates have remained constant over the last five years, though during this time there's been a 6.8 percent increase in the number of people using vehicles to travel to work. If we continue to see such increases we may not be able to move so easily around the city for much longer.

We're using buses more – with an increase of about 9 percent since 2001. This increased use is encouraged through such schemes as UCOL's very successful Unlimited Access Scheme, where students ride for free. Massey University will be running a similar scheme in 2005.

Horizons Regional Council, Land Transport Safety Authority, and the Palmerston North City Council are continually looking at the opportunities to make moving around our city safer and easier, whether by foot, cycle, bus or private vehicle.



### Source:

Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001  
Palmerston North City Council, City Vision Survey, 2003  
Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004  
Horizons.mw Regional Council

## Natural Environment

*The health of our natural environment has improved in recent years and is good compared to that of some other cities.*

**Often unnoticed, our natural environment provides the foundation of our daily lives. We need to protect the health and cleanliness of our natural environs. Only then can we benefit from our natural resources and ecosystems. Only then can we enjoy its beauty, not just for ourselves today, but for the generations that will follow us.**

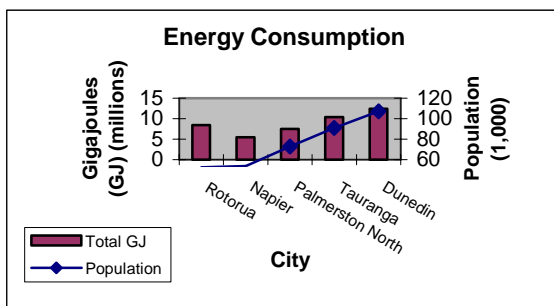
### The snapshot

We have 80 ‘ecological areas’ within our city boundaries. These amount to 12-15 percent of the city’s total area. Just one percent of these areas are within the urban area, the rest are located toward the Tararua ranges (Kahuterawa and Turitea water catchments). This is nationally quite significant for a city without a large rural area. Over half of the ecological areas are on private land.

These ecological areas are home to a range of mainly common native and introduced species. Palmerston North has a number of significant native species such as the brown mudfish and the land snail, which is nationally threatened. Many of the ecological areas are isolated and this could have an effect on their quality and future survival. Several organisations are working hard to connect significant pieces of vegetation by replanting areas such as the land around the Turitea Stream.

We breathe good air. In a 2001-02 test by the Horizons.mw our air quality proved better than other townships in the region, with pollution levels well below proposed national standards. More thorough monitoring is proposed in the future.

We’ve improved our water quality. Forty years ago untreated waste from towns and industries would pour into our rivers and streams. While our rivers and streams have improved we’ve still a way to go. The Turitea and Kahuterawa streams have good water quality; the quality of the water and fish habitat in the Mangaone is poor. And the demands for clean water from a growing population, developing industries and increasing horticultural and agricultural activities is putting pressure on the city’s ground and surface water resources.



We use less energy than other comparable centres (in 2002). This may be due to factors such as people taking a more responsible approach to their energy use or the changing face of our local economy - with fewer high consumption primary or manufacturing based industries.

### Source:

Palmerston North City Council, Ecological Processes in Palmerston North City, 2002

Horizon.mw Regional Council & Palmerston North City Council, Stream biodiversity and Water Quality of Palmerston North City, 2004

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority

## ***Leisure and Recreation***

*We enjoy a wide range of opportunities to take part in leisure and recreational activities.*

**Leisure and recreation are vital ingredients to a healthy and well balanced life. The more physically active we are the more likely we'll be healthy; the more likely we'll enjoy personal growth and development. By taking part in cultural activities and the arts, we build stronger communities in which we take pride.**

### ***The snapshot***

We enjoy a wide variety of leisure and recreational opportunities. The Lido swimming complex, Arena Manawatu, the Victoria Esplanade, City Library and the extensive network of walkways are just a few of the recreational facilities on offer. Currently we're happy with the facilities available to us. Most of us are satisfied with:

- the public swimming pools (70 percent)
- Te Manawa (77 percent)
- sportsfields and playgrounds (83 percent)
- public libraries (84 percent)
- the Regent Theatre (84 percent)
- parks and reserves (94 percent).

Maori culture finds strong expression in our city with many local and regional performances featuring on the city's events calendar

Emerging and established artists are well supported and encouraged through organisations such as the Palmerston North Community Arts Council and Creative Sounds. Publicly and privately owned gallery and performance venues (such as Te Manawa, the Stomach and the Globe through to Centrepoint, hotels and independent galleries) offer a wide array of choice for artists and performers.

Our arts community is further strengthened by the opportunity for quality study of art and performance within the city. Massey University, UCOL, Te Wananga o Aotearoa and many private training establishments can help the step from hobby to profession.

Our events calendar shows an active and vibrant community life, especially over summer. During 2002-03, our core summer festival events attracted over 45,000 people.

### ***Source:***

Palmerston North City Council, Communitrak Survey, March 2004

Palmerston North City Council, Review of Core Events Programme - Report to Events Festivals and Sport Committee, May 2003

Palmerston North City Council, Position Paper on the Arts in Palmerston North, 2003