



Time to focus on Paihia and its future.

This is the call of a group of like minded individuals who are activating a visioning exercise for Paihia. They are holding a community workshop and ask those in the community that have an invested interest, whether it is business or private, to come along and get involved. They believe it will be the beginning of a new era – a proactive vision that will see a prosperous and more cohesive Paihia.

“Paihia has a history of hap-hazard development and it shows”, said Grant Harnish. “We believe that it is time to put a stake in the ground and as a community decide on how we wish to represent ourselves. We need to clarify who we are as a whole, look at what we value and ensure we retain this while developing in a sustainable manner that will ensure a rewarding future for all residents”.

With a number of upcoming initiatives such as the proposed waterfront development by Far North Holdings Ltd, timing does seem to be perfect.

An initial framework for developing a vision has been put in place. The first workshop will call for nominations for a volunteer working party. Their responsibility will be to lead the process in developing a 10 – 15 year vision for Paihia, with short to long term goals. It is also foreseen that a number of focus groups will meet to develop plans to feed into the overall vision. The aim will be to run an open and inclusive process to encourage people to get involved.

“People with a passion and commitment to the long term well-being of the area are called upon to contribute,” said Judy Te Whiu. “We believe our contribution will have many rewards as we see Paihia moving forward in a more unified fashion”.

“For many years there have been grumblings about this and that in Paihia. So here is an opportunity to bring some creative thoughts to the table” said Tania McInnes. “This is a chance for people to effect positive change through conscious effect. Whether you just have a couple of suggestions or you want to join one of the groups, you are all welcome.”

The first community workshop will run on Wednesday 17 June at Paihia Pacific, from 5.30pm. Anyone who is interested in Paihia and its future is encouraged to come along and participate. For further information, go online at www.paihianz.co.nz or email focusonpaihia@xtra.co.nz.

For further information, please contact:

Tania McInnes of 09 402 8181
Eating the Elephant 021 344 870