

## CENTRAL HAWKES BAY – OWNING OUR OWN FUTURE

*Building Prosperous Communities for our Grandchildren*

A community-action project initiated by Central Hawke's Bay Promotions Inc. and Central Hawke's Bay District Council



During February and March 2010 the Ongaonga and Takapau communities have held the first in this series of forums to be held in all of our Central Hawke's Bay towns. The forums are facilitated by John Wise who works at the leading edge of community economic development. He encourages collective knowledge and creativity and works toward making your plans a reality.

John was instrumental in Greytown and Featherston's turnaround. Places we all know, like Tirau and Kaikoura, have all changed because of the facilitation process John specialises in.

This Project is about YOU, the people of Central Hawke's Bay, working both locally and regionally to *deliberately* create the sort of community you want for yourself, your children and for your grandchildren. It's about *re-discovering* the power of working together in partnership with whomever it takes (neighbours, friends, local and central government, businesses etc.,) to achieve your goals. It's about making choices.

You will know from your own experience how quickly a community can change. It's a matter of choice, isn't it? We can choose to leave the future to chance or we can choose to act and create the future we want. Sure, some changes seem beyond our control but we do have more influence than we may realise.

The *Owning our Future* Project will assist your community – any community - to choose and create the future it wants rather than placing its trust in hope.

**There are no boundaries, because everyone is welcome to attend and a wide range of ideas will come out of the discussions.**

By the time you go home your community will have taken the first steps to creating the future it wants. You will have:

1. Selected some key ideas that excite you, feel 'do-able' and are important to the successful achievement of your vision.
2. Set up a short-life project team for each selected idea. Teams will report back to the community in 6-8 weeks with a draft plan of action. Guidance and support will be available to these teams if required.

Support and guidance will be ongoing as your community turns ideas into reality. The community meeting is only the beginning.

The benefits are the sharing of a common vision of your future community and some common goals for achieving it. (Have a road map to follow)

As a community you will be more active in creating what you want – rather than reactive about what you don't want, while developing new skills and knowledge along the way

New partnerships will develop locally, regionally, nationally and possibly internationally

**You will amaze yourselves with what can be accomplished.**