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FOREWORD FOR THE JOURNAL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

I love living in Palmerston North, a city of about 75000 people situated in the middle of the lower half of the North Island of New Zealand, It might not be perfect, no beach and quite a lot of wind, but it is a diverse community enriched by decades of immigration from Europe initially and Asia and the Middle East more recently. The indigenous people, the Rangitane, have a history of fostering peaceful co-existence between the citizens and our large town square is dedicated to the "Daughter of Peace".

We are a university city too. Town and Gown links are strong as each year we celebrate the influx of new students at the beginning of the academic year and join in the graduation ceremonies at the completion of their studies. Palmerston North is known for its "Young Heart, Easy Living" image, During their time here the students contribute greatly to our economy, our social life and our knowledge of ourselves as they study the communities within our overall community. The research and observation conducted by students has often assisted the City Council in understanding the needs and aspirations, underlying tensions and critical success factors present in various parts of our community and thereby helped with planning and resource distribution.

Enjoy the articles within this journal as you gain some insight into parts of our community and come visit us some time.

Alison Wall
Deputy Mayor
2003

