

Vintage transport hub plans unveiled

By John Maslin

john.maslin@wanganuichronicle.co.nz

A plan has been unveiled to create an early transport hub on Wanganui's riverfront, tying in with the tram shed and PS Waimarie.

The concept is the brainchild of Ed Boyd and Peter Robinson and would see an early transport centre incorporating vintage and classic motor vehicles and other memorabilia lined up with the tram, riverboats and rowing.



Ed Boyd

Mr Boyd said the idea was to create a museum on Taupo Quay between the tram shed and Waimarie museum, housing up to 20 vehicles that would be part of a working transport facility.

"In the same way people can ride on the tram or the riverboats, they will be able to ride in a vintage vehicle," he said.

Wanganui was a vast storehouse of memorabilia and the sheer volume would mean much of it would have to be stored elsewhere, Mr Boyd said.

Mr Robinson has donated his 1938 Morris 8 to the Wanganui Vintage Car Club so it can be cared for and Mr Boyd has a number of vehicles and items he plans to donate to the city.

"As long as it's properly set up, there is potential for a lot more donations."

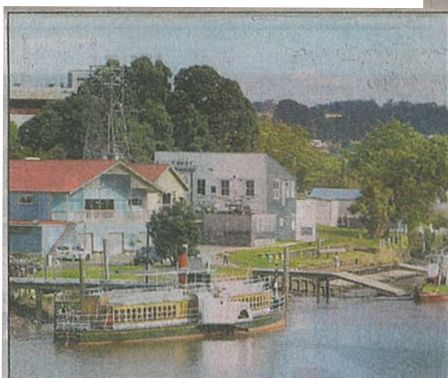
They made a submission to the Wanganui District Council 10-year plan this week, hoping to get council support for the concept.

Mr Boyd said there would be a cost for council as they were hoping the preferred site — which is harbour endowment land — would be made available at minimal cost apart from rates.

While there were existing leases involved, long term he hoped council would regard the area as a reserve rather than a straight commercial activity.

The Wanganui Antiquities Trust is involved in the project and Mr Boyd said the new centre aimed to build on the tourism trade generated by existing river-side activities.

"At the moment, once people have had a ride on the Waimarie it's a matter of



POTENTIAL: The riverboat museum and tramshed could become part of a vintage transport complex.

'what's next?'. We believe the transport centre will build on that by offering another visitor option and a ride in a vintage car taking in other sights around the city."

Steel framing for the centre has been donated from the Western Motors building demolished some years ago to make way for Pak n Save in Glasgow St. Mr Boyd said the framing was worth about \$70,000 and they were reluctant to turn it down as it gave them a base to build on.

"There are greater potential returns to the city in having the area developed as we propose than having it developed for commercial purposes."

Mr Boyd said the target was an opening to coincide with the national veteran car rally being hosted in Wanganui in January 2017.