

Ōtaki

UPDATE



A monthly newsletter
from your local council

Walkway loop completed at Haruatai Park

A long-term project to build a loop walkway around Ōtaki's Haruatai Park has come to fruition, giving walkers and runners a new fitness trail option.

The loop consists of a 1.2-metre-wide compacted gravel path, starting behind the playgroup and guide/scout buildings, running up on to the rise north of the playing fields, and dropping down to skirt around the back of the sports club and the swimming pool to complete a loop of about a kilometre.

Council's Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Planner, Stuart Kilmister, says that the walkway has been a two or three-year project, completed in stages during the summer months.

"With the existing fitness equipment stations dotted around the park, this gives Ōtaki

residents a good new recreational opportunity. It is good for runners and for dog walkers."

The loop may also be extended through the native bush on the neighbouring land belonging to the Office of Treaty Settlements.

This was the vision of the late Dr Barry Brayston, who as chair of Keep Ōtaki Beautiful wished to see a walking track established connecting Haruatai Park to the cemetery and beyond.

Council is now reconnecting pathways through the Office of Treaty Settlements' land, with a view to accomplishing that vision.



Ōtaki Community Board chair James Cootes surveys the layout of Haruatai Park from the new walkway.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE ANNUAL PLAN

The invitation to have your say on the Council's Annual Plan is now open to residents until 28 April.

The Annual Plan is basically the Council's budget and work programme, detailing where money will be spent over the next year, which projects are going to be progressed and how much has to be raised in rates to cover the spending.

A total of six public workshops have been held by Council since the start of February, covering every area of spending from stormwater and wastewater management to libraries, economic development, parks and swimming pools.

The result has been a Draft Annual Plan

which was adopted by Council on March 20 and has now been released to the public for Community members to comment.

Mayor Ross Church urged people to "have their say" on the Plan.

"Lots of thought and discussion has gone into this Plan to achieve two principal goals – to find a balance between the ongoing spending needs of the District, in order that our everyday requirements for such necessities as roading, libraries, recreational facilities and water are met; while achieving our aim to keep rates at an affordable level.

"Council's desire is to be more open and inclusive with the Community, and this is an important area for people to let us know what they want.

"I would encourage members of the Community to take this opportunity to engage with us."

Submission forms are available through the Customer Services Centres in the Council offices in Paraparaumu, Waikanae Library and Ōtaki Library, and can also be downloaded from the Council website www.kapiti.coast.govt.nz/Draft-Annual-Plan

Ōtaki makes Lonely Planet

Fresh from the resounding success of the Ōtaki kite festival, the town has now hit the international stage.

The March/April issue of Lonely Planet Asia – the world's leading travel magazine – devoted half a page to Ōtaki and the kite festival, right next to an article about Beijing. Ōtaki Village Promotions Group chair Ian Carson supplied a photo and publicity materials to Lonely Planet Asia earlier this year and the Group has recently received an email copy of the magazine. The half page on Ōtaki was in the "10 Easy Trips" section. Ōtaki was number two after Paro in Bhutan.

Transformed Ōtaki playground goes retro

A "modern retro" theme is to be used as the basis to transform the playground beside Ōtaki's i-SITE Visitor Centre on SH1.

Over the next few months much of the older equipment in the playground will be replaced by equipment reminiscent of a 1960s play area, such as a tractor, a merry-go-round, swings and a "lullaby" rocking horse which can seat up to four children at a time.

The layout of the playground will also be changed, making it more user-friendly.

The work is part of a planned programme by Council to ensure our playgrounds are well-maintained and updated if required.

Council's Leisure and Open Space Contract Operations Officer, Jonny Baxter, said the retro theme would make the playground different from others in the District.

"This is a very well-patronised playground that is used by shoppers and travellers going through as well as by local residents. We want to create a playground which is iconic and attracts more people to the area.

"If shoppers know there is a good playground for their children to play in, close to the retail

shopping area, they are more likely to come to Ōtaki. That can only be positive for Ōtaki's retailers."

Mr Baxter said the design would be "loud", and stand out to visitors.

"It will create a bit of nostalgia among older people who recognise the equipment as being similar to the things they played on as children. It will certainly create interest."

James Cootes, Chair of the Ōtaki Community Board, said the new playground will be a

welcome addition to the other great facilities offered in Ōtaki.

"It will enhance the experience of visiting Ōtaki. The theme will be a refreshing change from the standard playgrounds often found. It will hopefully become a talking point amongst families, further strengthening Ōtaki's position as a destination.

"We hope everyone enjoys it!"

The work is being done by June 30 to a budget of \$53,000.