

Kāpiti Coast Choosing Futures

Community Outcomes

Te Horo Local Outcomes

Te Horo is a peaceful rural and coastal community with a unique environment stretching from the Tararua Ranges to the sea.

Te Horo has traditionally served as a ‘food basket’ for harvesting and gathering from sea, river, streams, land and bush, which must be preserved for future generations.



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Introduction

The *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Future-Community Outcomes* process was initiated between 2003-04 and reviewed in 2008-09, aiming to represent community aspirations for the District. Nine other Local Outcomes Statements, similar to this Te Horo one, have been developed by and for the various communities within the District.

The *Kāpiti Choosing Futures: – Community Outcomes* provides the umbrella document which covers environment, growth management, protection of character, access, efficient use of resources, increasing local employment choices, creating a place that works for young people, and general enjoyment of what the Kāpiti Coast has to offer. This Te Horo Local Outcomes statement documents the specific issues for Te Horo that arise under the broader District outcomes.

Community Outcomes acknowledge the particular character of the Te Horo community and the vision it has and what the predominant themes and issues are. Community Outcomes researches and records the focus for Te Horo providing future guidance for what is important to the people who live and work there.

Background

Settlement History

The elements that have shaped the basic form of settlement of the Te Horo area are:

- natural features, for example the Ōtaki and Waikanae Rivers and Mangaone Stream, their estuaries and significance as a food source;
- the coastal environment;
- the location of Māori settlement, for example Katihiku Marae;
- clearing and drainage of land for farming;
- the establishment of the railway and subsequently the State Highway.

Māori settlement patterns within the Te Horo area prior to European settlement consisted of seasonal settlements associated with harvest, particularly fishing and some permanent settlements of varying sizes.

The Māori translation of Te Horo literally means landslide. But it is suggested that another derivation of the name comes from an Ati Awa chief, Te Hau te Horo who was killed on the hill behind what is now Marycrest during the battle of Haowhenua. (*Changing faces of Te Horo 2009*)

For tāngata whenua, Te Horo extends down to Peka Peka and up to Kuku and there is no distinction between Te Horo Beach and Te Horo. The local iwi and hapū are:

- Ōtaki Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga

- Te Horo Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga
- Peka Peka Ngāti Raukawa (Kukutauaki north)
- Peka Peka Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai (Kukutauaki south)

Katihiku Marae in Te Horo, Tama Te Hura, was established in its current location in 1913. The Marae will celebrate its centenary in 2013.

Present day Te Horo is usually viewed as extending from south of the Ōtaki River across the Hautere Plain to Te Hapua.

Te Horo township

From the early twentieth century, Te Horo developed as a service settlement for surrounding farms centred around the then railway station and the main highway.

It is a small rural community that has grown either side of State Highway 1 and the North Island Main Trunk Railway Line, with Te Horo Beach on the west side clustered at the beach and the rest of Te Horo on the east side centred around the school, the church and the Te Horo Community Hall on School Road, with surrounding farmland and lifestyle blocks stretching up to the Tararua Ranges.

At times in the past, Te Horo has been a bigger busier, settlement. On the corner of Gear Road and School Road there are concrete remains of the Cheese Factory building. Te Horo at one time boasted a Blacksmiths, a Billiard Rooms, 5 churches and 85 dairies/creameries.

From 1902 the Hautere Cross Post Office operated from the farmhouse on the corner of what is now Ōtaki Gorge Road, the original house was built in 1892 and is still there.

In 2012 the estimated population of Te Horo (including Te Horo Beach) is 700 and 1500 for Ōtaki Forks.

Rural Lands

From the Tararua Ranges to the sea, the Te Horo and Hautere area has a strong traditional focus on horticulture, along with dairying and pastoral farming. The high quality soils in the area offer significant potential for economic growth of the rural productive sector.

The Te Horo area is now becoming known for its market gardening, small industries such as berry, olive and lavender production as well as life-style properties.

There are around 100 to 200 people employed in the Te Horo area. There is no definitive centre or concentrated cluster of economic activity within the area; rather a small number of convenience, commercial and industrial activities spread over a wide area (*Kāpiti Employment Areas Study 2011, p16*).

Te Horo Beach

The Te Horo beach area is made up of a stone beach backed by a succession of low stone fore dunes, sand flats and back dunes, with scrubland behind.

The stone beach is unique and in contrast to the sand beaches throughout the rest of the District. The stones extend south from the Ōtaki River, forming a bank in front of the Te Horo Beach settlement.

Te Horo also has some of the best back dune wetlands in the District including the Te Hapua Wetland complex. These wetlands are recognised ecological features in the District Plan.

Te Horo Beach settlement is bounded geographically by the Mangaone Stream on its northern boundary, the coast to the west and an outstanding dunescape in the south and east. The village is accessed by a single road running alongside the Mangaone Stream. There has been considerable development around Te Horo Beach, especially along the coast both north and south of the settlement. Access to the beach is an issue, as is harvesting of stones and driftwood from the beach.

The Te Horo Local Outcomes have been developed from existing information and documents and input from the community. This includes:

- Kapiti Coast Coastal Strategy 2006
- Greater Ōtaki Vision 2007
- Kapiti Coast Development Management Strategy 2007
- *Changing Faces of Te Horo* – a record of an exhibition at the Otaki Museum October 2009 published by the Otaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust.
- *Te Horo School A Centennial Mosaic 1893 to 1993* commissioned by the Te Horo School Centennial Jubilee Committee
- Input from the Te Horo School, Friends of Te Horo Beach, Katihiku Marae and from the wider community (through community workshops).

This outcomes document includes the seven District wide outcomes that are relevant to the Te Horo area and additional outcomes specifically for Te Horo that have been drawn from the above information.

Te Horo School - Our children, Our community, Our future.

The school has been a focal point of the community since 1893 when it was built on land donated by the Gear family who farmed much of Te Horo. The school's vision and school song reflect many of the values and aspirations raised by the community during the development of the Te Horo Local Outcomes.

TE HORO – WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN

CHORUS:

*Te Horo we are your children and we'll always be
No matter where we roam
We'll always think of you as home
Te Horo*

VERSE 1

*Your land rich and fertile, giving treasure endlessly
Gardens of plenty, green fields and laden trees
In sight of the Tararuas, from the bushline to the sea
You're the place we call our home, you're the place we love to be.*

VERSE 2

*You're the place we'll remember, you've shaped the way
we've grown
Thanks for all that you've given. All the things we call our own
In our thoughts and our feelings you'll always play a part
Wherever we go, we'll carry you with us in our heart.*

Written for the Centennial of the School by Dave Chadwick.

Things the current students value about Te Horo include:

- the rural outdoors; hunting, hiking and camping in Ōtaki Forks and the Tararua Ranges;
- the countryside with trees to climb, space to play and ride bikes and horses to ride;
- Farms and good soil for growing things, hay bales for jumping on;
- The beach for swimming and fishing, sand dunes, the sunset;
- It's quiet and peaceful, no traffic;
- A safe community with friendly people who know each other;
- It's very clean, no litter;
- Lots to do, school entertainment, Paddy's Mart.

School Motto

Actions speak louder than words

Ma te mahi kihai te kōrero

Districtwide Outcome 1: There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy

This outcome contains a number of detailed outcomes relevant to Te Horo:

Key natural areas shape the fundamental form and quality of the District's settlements

The coast in its entirety is recognised as:

- a complex system that is affected by actions along its length;
- being central to the local culture and lifestyle;
- place that is valued for its natural and wild feel;
- being the marine edge, the front dunes and dune wetlands; and that is supported by:
 - retaining the wild natural character and the health of the coastal ecosystems as a first priority in any decisions;
 - retaining dune lands and wetlands in subdivision design and development;
 - avoiding any further new greenfields subdivision on the front dunes and associated wetlands.

There are three regional public open space areas along the coast at:

- Queen Elizabeth Regional Park;
- Waikanae Estuary; and
- in the vicinity of Te Horo Beach and Ōtaki Beach; which are managed in a way that:
 - recognises they are important areas for recreation; and
 - integrates the recreational use with the coastal and estuarine character and value.

The Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers (and their associated streams) are recognised as:

- river corridors of special importance to iwi and the wider community; and this is supported by:
- ensuring use of their water and development along their edges is consistent with maintaining their health and restoring habitat; and
- restoration programmes.

The District's streams become major natural features in all settled areas.

Kāpiti Coast becomes nationally famous for an extensive walkway, cycle and bridleway system that includes the following features:

- good access to the Tararua Ranges;
- a coastal walkway and cycleway from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki and north;
- relatively easy 'middle height' access along the coastal escarpment and lower hills;
- extensive linkages through built up areas to key natural features such as the rivers and areas of bush;
- good local linkages to schools and centres;
- increased areas for dog walking.

The quality of the District's streams and rivers is improved especially:

- improving Ōtaki River water quality and habitat, in accordance with the Iwi Management Plan for the river;
- revegetating the Waikanae River corridor, and building healthier in-river, riparian edge and estuary habitats.

The coast is managed:

- as a comprehensive resource and ecosystem;
- in a way that keeps the coastal edge as natural as possible;
- in a way that recognizes certain areas have been modified and key issues are managing hazards and improving appearance and access.

The District becomes known for best practice subdivision and streetscape design that includes trees, landforms, waterways, parks, walkways, cycleways and bridleways, as features in development.

The District has best practice stormwater and flood management including:

- systems designed to reduce sediment and pollution runoff;
- river works and stormwater system design linked to restoration goals;
- upper catchments managed to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

Vulnerable areas of native vegetation and wildlife are protected including:

- bird nesting areas;
- species endemic to the area;
- areas of existing bush and wetlands on the coastal hills and coastal plain;
- remaining dunes.

A significant number of people within the District are actively involved in restoration of the natural environment.

People:

- know about marine, freshwater and bush environments;
- know about projects that are happening;
- know about community success in restoration.

Further local outcomes for Te Horo

Restoration of waterways and wetlands

- Local waterways and wetlands are restored and maintained, particularly the Mangaone Stream;
- Water quality is improved by minimising the impact of cattle and other activities on the streams, in particular Mangaone Stream; this could include education of landowners to fence off and plant riparian areas and assist the community with riparian planting;
- Mary Crest native trees and forest are valued;
- Local groups undertaking environmental restoration projects will be assisted and encouraged when possible.

Flooding

- Katihiku Marae is protected from flooding from the Ōtaki River.
- Street flooding is controlled by regular maintenance of growth and clearing of culverts for areas such as Te Horo Beach Road and the Mangaone Stream around Walkers Farm and past the Flagon Bridge, Nicholas Street, Rodney Avenue, Kitchener/Gawler Streets, Sylvia Way, School Road and Station Road.

Pesticides and organics

- The use of pesticide and herbicide is reduced and organic farming methods are promoted.
- Where pesticides and herbicides are used, application through use of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques is encouraged.

Valuing the natural environment

- The Mangaone Stream is a valued feature of the area.
- The wild character and natural 'unformed' nature of the beach settlement and dunes is retained.
- Education options, including improved signage, is investigated to improve residents' and visitors' understanding of sensitive ecosystems, and to inform them of beach rules (eg in relation to fires on the beach, the removal of stones or driftwood, vehicles, camping).
- Signage is kept to a minimum, but effectively conveys the need to respect the environment.
- Council bylaws are enforced, in particular the Beach Bylaw and Freedom Camping Policy.
- Night darkness is maintained by avoiding light pollution.

Districtwide Outcome 2: Local character is retained within a cohesive District

This outcome focuses on the uniqueness of each of the communities along the coast – concentrating on those local characteristics that link people together to create a cohesive whole.

The role, nature and character for each of Kāpiti Coast's towns, villages, local and special areas, is respected and retained, and shapes the future form and quality of the District

Te Horo Beach

- maintain current low-key character;
- restore the Mangaone;
- provide some limited facilities for use at the beach.

Te Horo

- maintain village character around the school;
- improve safety.

The Hautere Plain and surrounding farmed hills are recognised as:

- an existing and potential rural productive area;
- and the opportunities to contribute to the District are protected and enhanced.

A range of housing options is available which allows people to continue to live in their local communities over their lifetime, including housing that:

- meets a range of needs e.g. families, older people, youth, single people, Māori, people with disabilities, and low income families;

- is affordable;
- is healthy, energy-smart and sustainable.

The design of buildings and infrastructure is more in keeping with the character of the Kāpiti Coast.

Local schools, especially the smaller schools in the smaller communities, are recognised as focal points and sources of community cohesiveness, and that they are retained into the future.

Community and sector networks that actively contribute to local and community cohesiveness are supported.

There is a high level of participation in community decision-making within communities and across the District, particularly in relation to district planning.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

Development

- The rural and the low density character of the area is retained with small settlements surrounded by rural productive land.
- Rural lifestyle development is undertaken in a way that protects and maintains natural systems and landforms.
- The cumulative impact of new development does not change the character of very low density built environment.

Heritage

Historic areas in Te Horo are recognised and protected, for example the cobble beach road along Rodney Avenue and other paths, bridges, land marks and buildings.

Transport and Access

Safe environments for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorists are maintained in the settlements for example by:

- lowering the speed limit to 50km from the corner of Pukenamu Road and Te Horo Beach Road;
- introducing speed calming measures coming into Te Horo Beach with an entrance way statement;
- decreasing the speed of vehicles past Te Horo School;
- introducing safety improvements at the corner of School Road, Cross Road and Blackburne Road, and Te Horo Beach Road and Rodney Avenue;

- preventing the damaging impact of vehicles on the beach and dunes;
- prohibiting driving on the beach in areas in front of houses except for emergency vehicles and authorised restoration or beach maintenance work.
- permitting four wheel vehicles driving on the foreshore between the official beach access points at the southern end of Rodney Ave down to Olliver Grove, North Waikanae.
- Investigating the extension of the roading seal out to the end of Mangaone North Road.

The rural feel of the roads is retained with no footpaths or curb and channel, and clear berms for the safety of horse riders, pedestrian and dog walkers and agricultural equipment.

Alternative emergency access is investigated for use in a civil emergency such as flooding, for example a cycle track which could be used for emergency vehicles.

Access to the beach is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists.

Districtwide Outcome 3: The Nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals

Key natural features and the character and scale of communities should shape the location of population growth in a way that supports community outcomes and vision.

New growth can be clearly linked to local community and District benefit.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

The cumulative impact of new development and additional population does not change the unique character of Te Horo.

A balanced development plan broadens the economic base of the area and supports and enhances the primary food production activity.

Recreation and tourism development is encouraged whilst maintaining local character, including:

- recreational access to Tararua National Park, canoeing and river sports, boating, fishing, hunting, tramping, biking, horse riding;
- tourist accommodation;
- pick your own produce.

Districtwide Outcome 4: The community makes wise use of local resources and people have the ability to act in a sustainable way on a day to day basis

The productive potential of Kāpiti Coast rural lands for food, fibre and other agricultural products is preserved over time. Particular regard should be had for the protection of soils and potential of the Hautere, Te Horo and Ōtaki hinterlands.

There are more opportunities for innovative design of subdivisions, building and infrastructure to reduce energy and resource use.

Infrastructure is designed and managed to meet the community's basic needs and to increase people's ability to act sustainably and take responsibility for the effects of their actions, including:

- increased exploration of local energy supply, especially wind energy and hydro-electric supply;
- increased focus on people being able to use on-site and household systems, especially via roof water tanks to conserve water;
- reticulated water and wastewater systems currently in use are efficient and do not waste water.

People have good access to information, networks and resources that enable them to:

- increase the energy and water efficiency of their homes;
- grow their own food, either on their own sections or on communally owned land.

The local resource available to people to harvest is enhanced, including:

- having land for communal gardens;
- protecting seafood and freshwater food resources;
- promoting seed saving;
- planting heritage and other trees and edible plants in public spaces.

The community fully and transparently explores the possible benefits, impacts and effects of G.E. free and/or organic production methods.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

The Katihiku Marae bore, and bores in the Te Horo Beach area are significant and need to be monitored so that they can continue to be used. The dependence of the southern part of the community on shallow ground water for drinking water which does not undergo any form of treatment is important, as is the efficient and safe operation of household wastewater and sewage treatment and disposal systems.

Controlled access for whitebaiters is monitored and maintained.

The Coast (including harvesting)

- The kaitiaki role of tāngata whenua is valued.
- The coast is protected for future generations.
- There is public appreciation and understanding of healthy natural ecosystems including educational signage showing the values of these systems.
- The coast is accessible for a range of activities but avoids damage of dunes, estuaries and shellfish areas by vehicles.
- The coast is valued as a kete kaimoana, food basket.
- Respect for the environment is promoted through initiatives such as signage.

Te Horo, Hautere and the Wider Rural Area

The vision for the rural area is that it can continue to produce food and does not become simply a place for rural lifestyle living. People are keen to develop local products of a high quality and to develop

activities, such as local restaurants and tourism that build on that local rural character.

The full potential of the rural area to grow and promote food and other products and provide local employment is realised and this happens in a way that:

- ensures that people who make their living from the land are supported and can continue to function;
- protects the water resource and soils;
- protects remaining bush and coastal areas;
- supports sustainably managed forestry;
- provides opportunities for local farmers' markets
- provides opportunities for local activities linked to the land;
- supports the development and marketing of products for local and export markets;
- supports the development of traditional crops such as tutu healing plants.

Districtwide Outcome: 5 There is increased choice to work locally

It is easy to establish value added economic activity, especially that linked with food production and local manufacturing, in the District.

The local labour force has employment opportunities in an appropriate mix of skilled and unskilled work, as much as possible within the District.

Children and young people can see their career path, and can as much as possible gain the necessary skills and employment within the District.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

The full potential of the rural area to grow and promote food and other products and provide local employment is realised and the water supply is available to support this.

Rural broadband (wireless) connectivity is delivered.

Districtwide Outcome 6: The District is a place that works for young people

There are pleasant, interesting, safe and accessible places where young people feel welcome and can enjoy themselves, including:

- Ōtaki, Waikanae, and Paraparaumu town centres;
- Main beach destinations;
- a range of high quality active recreation facilities; and
- a suitable range of shops and other retail outlets.

Public transport meets the needs of young people in terms of cost and accessibility, and runs:

- in and out of Ōtaki at all times both north and south;
- passenger trains between Ōtaki and Paraparaumu.

The District's small local schools are retained so that children are taught in their local communities.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

The recreation area is cleared at Gawler Street for community use.

The Council advocates with Greater Wellington Regional Council for improved public transport services linking Te Horo to Ōtaki and Waikanae.

The rural and beach lifestyle is retained where children can play and explore freely.

Districtwide Outcome 7: The District has a strong, healthy, safe and involved community

The District's main public places, including beaches, are safe, attractive and accessible to everyone in the community, including the elderly, families and people with disabilities.

There is a greater range of housing options available in the District catering for a variety of social needs including:

- Community / social housing;
- Emergency housing; and
- Papakainga housing.

There are extensive linkages within the District in addition to State Highway 1, including:

- crossing over the Waikanae River;
- an extensive walkway, bridleway and cycleway system;
- good quality footpaths which are safe for people to use, particularly older people.

There is efficient and economical public transport for people to get to venues, services, amenities and entertainment, including:

- access out of Ōtaki at all times;
- good bus connections from the train at night;
- passenger rail services through to Ōtaki.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

Te Horo Hall is improved and maintained as a community meeting place.

The Council advocates with Greater Wellington Regional Council for improved public transport services linking Te Horo to Ōtaki and Waikanae especially for the elderly e.g. access to the Community Health Shuttle.

Community connections between Te Horo Beach and Te Horo are encouraged through sharing of information, community activities.

The community is involved in civil defence planning.

Katihiku Marae

- Papakainga housing made easier to achieve on Māori land.
- Swap marginal land for productive land.
- Allow raising the height of Katihiku Marae, or move it to higher ground.
- Protect waahi tapu in the area.
- Investigate more direct access to Katihiku Marae.