

**KĀPITI COAST : CHOOSING FUTURES**

**COMMUNITY  
OUTCOMES**

**OTAIHANGA  
LOCAL OUTCOMES**



In memory of Otaihanga Progressive Association Chair,  
Anthony R (Tony) Edwards

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## Foreword from the Mayor

Creating the Otaihanga Local Outcomes Statement provided an opportunity for the area's residents to develop and confirm their vision for the future of the community. It was developed out of several meetings held in the centre of the community at the Otaihanga Boating Club. There was a strong turn out at these workshops which covered all aspects of the community and asked people to provide their ideas on how to set a framework in place for the area's future.

Sitting at the estuary of the Waikanae River but semi-isolated between the two larger urban areas of Waikanae and Paraparaumu, Otaihanga, in much the same way as Paekākāriki in the south, has developed an ethos and a culture of its own. Its ebb and flow mirrors the ebb and flow of the river and tide in the area.

It is a place of beauty and tranquillity and the focus of its people is on retaining and preserving its unique nature and quality rather than on looking to make changes and to develop.

This focus is mirrored in the outcomes presented here which provide a framework the Council will take into account in management of issues which affect Otaihanga and its people now, and in the future.

**Jenny Rowan** QSO, JP

**Mayor, Kāpiti Coast District**



# Introduction

In 2003 and 2004, the Council undertook districtwide consultation to create '*Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – The Community Plan*'. These Outcomes were reviewed again in 2008/2009. These processes aim to represent the community's aspirations for the District. Since 2003 a number of Local Outcome Statements have also been developed by and for the various communities within the District. The Otaihanga Local Outcomes Statement is one of these, and sets out a further layer of information about the community's vision for the Otaihanga area.

While reading this document, it is important to remember that it sits under the umbrella of *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes*. That document covers areas such as the natural environment, growth management, protection of character, access, efficient use of resources (e.g. water, reduction of waste, energy), increasing local employment choices, creating a place that works for young people, and general enjoyment of what the Kāpiti Coast offers. It is not intended to repeat these Community Outcomes here in any detail, although they are summarised throughout.

This umbrella *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* also acknowledges the particular character of communities and places along the Kāpiti Coast. It does this in broad terms, and much of the focus of the Otaihanga Local Outcomes Statement is to provide more guidance on what this means for Otaihanga.

*Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* and any Local Outcomes documents, such as the draft set out here, have status under the Local Government Act 2002. Provided that the desired community outcomes are consistent with a sustainable development approach and support the social,

cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of people and communities (both local and districtwide), the District Council and central government agencies must show how their actions progress this community vision.

The broader Community Outcomes and Local Outcomes cannot bind an agency to a future direction or a particular level of investment, especially as these issues need to be balanced against needs and requirements in other areas and across the District as a whole. However, these documents together become a touchstone for assessing the performance of agencies in supporting the community wellbeing. It also forms a more concrete basis for engagement between communities, agencies and institutions on particular issues.

The Community Outcomes and the Local Outcomes are not just documents intended to shape the response of the Council and other agencies. They signal a collectively desired direction for the area as a place and as a community. In many cases the challenge is for the residents to become involved, to do things in their community to make things work. These Outcomes present a challenge for everyone into the future.

The key districtwide outcomes which relate to Otaihanga are:

- Outcome One: There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy;
- Outcome Two: Local character is retained within a cohesive District;
- Outcome Seven: The District has a strong, healthy and involved community;

The remainder of the districtwide Outcomes are detailed in *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes*.



## Background

Otaihanga is the semi-rural (or ‘peri-urban’), mostly sand-dune-strewn area sandwiched between the urban centres of Paraparaumu and Waikanae. Historically the term Otaihanga was used widely to include the entire area between what is now Mazengarb Road and the Waikanae River, including the Lindale and Nikau Valley areas as well as the site of today’s Waikanae Downs subdivision. More recently, however, the term Otaihanga has focused on the area west of State Highway 1, excluding the recent urban subdivisions such as Kotuku Park, Waterstone and Jade Gardens that are generally thought of as extensions to Paraparaumu. While the term Otaihanga is sometimes used even more narrowly to refer to the small riverside village (‘Otaihanga Village’) west from the intersection of Otaihanga Road and Ratanui Road, this Local Outcomes Statement deals with the wider Otaihanga area west of State Highway 1. It has been written based on the input and feedback of residents of that wider area.

Otaihanga includes the Southward Car Museum (with one of the largest car collections in the Southern Hemisphere), the resource recovery facility and sand quarry, the riverside village, and the public reserves and tracks that provide opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, bird watching, picnicking, trout fishing or whitebaiting. The car museum, resource recovery facility and quarry are the only major commercial activities in the Otaihanga area.

Otaihanga also contains a nationally important highway and rail line, two locally important footbridges over the Waikanae River, and locally important waterways. It is also the future site of a segment of the long-planned Western Link Corridor.

A key feature of Otaihanga is the Domain, which is dedicated to ‘Grandchildren from Grandparents’ and provides a safe place for children to play and families to enjoy traditional Kiwi picnics and games. As part of the Kāpiti Coast Cycle Trail, the Domain also allows residents and visitors to cross the Waikanae River via the swing bridge or horse crossing, and to rest a while. Children, bicycles and horses are noticeable features of the Otaihanga community.

Otaihanga’s residential offerings consist mostly of farms, farmlets, recent lifestyle blocks such as those in the Camelot rural residential subdivision, the small attractive Otaihanga Village (about 180 houses) by the picturesque Waikanae River, and a small strip of residential properties along Ratanui Road. The relatively undeveloped low-density character of the Otaihanga area is relevant to both its charm as a place of residence and its effectiveness as the key part of the Kāpiti Island to Tararua Mountains nature corridor concept.

Although a small community, Otaihanga has both a strong history and very interesting ecological features. Historically, the Waikanae River mouth was important for both Māori and Europeans as a transport hub for ships, whalers, waka and stage coaches. Arapawaiti, which is the oldest surviving building in the Kāpiti region, was originally used as a Ferry Inn for travellers and is an important landmark of this time.

However, due to Otaihanga’s location next to the river, flooding is a major issue for the community. While one interpretation of the Māori term “Otaihanga” is “the place of the sea-people” (e.g. the ancient Muaupoko), other possible translations include: “the place made by the tide”, “the place that floods,” and “the place where water builds up.”

The natural environment is largely based on this watery context. It comprises the Waikanae River, including contributing waterways such as the Muaupoko Stream, the Otaihanga Oxbow and other oxbows, the Waikanae Estuary and the associated sand dunes. Conservation projects have been undertaken in these areas and in the Greendale Reserve, with volunteer groups receiving national awards for their efforts.

As with any community, within Otaihanga there is a healthy range of views of what the area should be like over time, what areas are valued and which things need to be protected or

improved. Residents agree that the river, the estuary, the sand dunes, the beach and the Domain, combined with the rural and tranquil setting, create a unique environment within the District. There is a very strong desire in the community to retain the rural and unspoilt feel of Otaihanga and to keep a rural buffer separating Otaihanga Village and Paraparaumu. Residents are keen to be involved in decisions on future road connections, road design, residential and commercial development, and other matters that could impact on Otaihanga's unique character.





## **Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures: Districtwide Outcome 1: There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy**

This Outcome area contains a number of detailed outcomes relevant to Otaihanga, including the following:

### **That key natural areas shape the fundamental form and quality of the District's settlements, through the following:**

- retaining dune lands and wetlands in subdivision design and development;
- that bird corridors exist from the coast to the hills with native plant food source along the rivers and stream corridors; and fingers and pockets of green out into the surrounding residential and rural areas;
- that Waikanae Estuary is managed in a way that recognises it as an important area for recreation; and integrates that recreational use with the coastal and estuarine character and value;
- the Waikanae River (and its associated streams) is recognised as a river corridor of special importance to iwi and the wider community; and that this is supported by ensuring use of its waters and development along its edges is consistent with maintaining its health and restoring habitat, and restoration programmes.

### **That Kāpiti Coast becomes nationally famous for an extensive walkway, cycleway and bridleway system that has the following features:**

- 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.





**That 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.



**That 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.

**That local parks and roads become a major feature in the 'greening' of the District, with a mix of native, exotic and fruit trees.**

**That the number of people actively involved in restoration increases.**

**That people:**

- know about their natural areas and how to care for them;
- have access to information about marine, freshwater and bush environments;
- know about projects that are happening;
- know about community success in restoration.

## Further Local Outcomes for Otaihanga

### The Natural Environment

- That the Waikanae River, including its estuary and other waterways (notably the Otaihanga Oxbow, other oxbows and the Muaupoko Stream), and local sand dunes are all preserved and protected as significant natural features within the District;
- That water quality in the Waikanae River, the Otaihanga Oxbow, the Estuary, the Muaupoko Stream and the Mazengarb Drain is improved to support greater biodiversity and improve recreational amenity, including additional riparian planting along the Waikanae River and tributaries;
- That native biodiversity is protected and improved, and the impact of introduced pests (eg Koi Carp) and weeds is minimised;
- That native planting and landscaping is incorporated into public areas, especially the Domain, along the road reserve, and within other public spaces; and that, where appropriate, exotic species are gradually replaced with natives;

- That guidance is available for private landowners who wish to improve the biodiversity on their own land.

### Flooding / Stormwater

- That flooding is prepared for and managed in a way that gives residents warning of events and minimises damage to dwellings;
- That the river is managed to minimise the flood risk, including via removal of sand and gravel build-up, but in a way that protects or enhances the local ecology and ensures that the river remains a pleasant place to be;
- That development is avoided within the floodplain, which includes the Waikanae River overflow path, and any new development elsewhere is managed on-site and does not contribute to an increase in stormwater levels in Otaihanga.



## Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Districtwide Outcome 2

### Local character is retained within a cohesive district

This Outcome is concerned with the recognition of the uniqueness and character of the string of communities along the coast while also concentrating on those things that link people together to create a sense of the whole. The first brings a focus on such things as local landscape, the style and scale of buildings, the design of local roads and the feel of a place. The latter includes a focus on access, on community networks and on participation in decision-making.

The umbrella document *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* acknowledges all of the communities along the coast. It has this to say about Otaihanga:



That the nine ‘villages areas’ within the District – Raumati South, Raumati Beach, Waikanae Beach, Te Horo Beach, Ōtaki Beach, Peka Peka, Te Horo, Reikorangi and Otaihanga – are recognised as important areas of local character, having a low-key, generally low rise, beach, rural or semi-rural village feel that is valued (and) having strong connections to surrounding natural areas;

They are supported by:

- ensuring that local characteristics and amenity are protected;
- fitting improvements to local retail areas, facilities and coastal protection to the character and natural feel of each area.

Specific comments which relate to Otaihanga include:

- manage any cross river access to minimise impacts on quiet ‘enclave’ feel;
- continue to enhance Waikanae River edge and green areas.

The improvement of ‘the level and quality of access within and between communities’ is also identified as part of Outcome 2.

## Further Local Outcomes for Otaihanga

The character of Otaihanga is strongly influenced by the Waikanae River, the Otaihanga Oxbow and the Waikanae Estuary, and also pockets of native bush. These important natural features provide opportunities for recreation, for example, walking, fishing, bird watching, mountain biking, in addition to their important ecological functions.

### General

- That Otaihanga becomes a destination that is treasured, especially for its riverside and recreational areas, and where the natural beauty including the sand dune ribbons is retained;
- That the semi-rural and village character of Otaihanga is retained and enhanced by the continued use of buffer zones

to separate Otaihanga Village from suburban Paraparaumu and the Western Link Corridor, and that these buffer zones are provided through rural blocks, rural residential hamlets and reserve areas to the south, west and east of Otaihanga Village;

- That development within Otaihanga Village is characterised by a mix of single and two storey homes on traditional quarter-acre sections, and that any new development within the Village retains or complements this character, with the preservation of existing landform, lot sizes and broad building styles;
- That visual effects of nearby development are minimised through rigorously enforced landscaping requirements and building colour and height controls;



- That light pollution emanating both from within Otaihanga and from neighbouring communities is minimised through the use of light-shading devices on street lights;
- That the Domain retains its semi-rural character;
- That a strong entrance statement to Otaihanga Village exists at the intersection of Otaihanga Road and Ratanui Road with welcome signage that emphasises the unspoilt character of the Village;
- That the history of Otaihanga is recognised and shared.

### Road Design

- That the semi-rural character of the village is reflected in

road design, with narrow lanes without kerbs, and with rural style footpaths;

- That roads and other transport networks provide for the safety of all road users (walkers, cyclists, horses [and their riders] and vehicles), and issues with ‘boy racing’ are addressed;
- That road design encourages low traffic speeds and safe intersections (including the intersection at Otaihanga Road when heading east onto SH1);
- That speed restriction signage at the entrance to Otaihanga Village emphasises the special nature of the Village as a recreational areas for children, walkers, cyclists and horses.





## **Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Districtwide Outcome 7**

### **The District has a strong healthy and involved community**

This outcome is concerned with the direct health and wellbeing of each person in the District. The other outcomes will all contribute to people's enjoyment, employment and confidence in the future of their local and District community. However, people also have a vision of individual physical health, of access, of enjoyment and fun. The vision also includes the idea of involvement and participation, not just as a contribution to community feeling but because of an individual sense of value and control over their lives.



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

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

**There is improved public transport for people to get to entertainment including:**

- good bus connections from the train at night;

**That there is a high level of participation in community decision-making within communities and across the District.**

**That people feel enabled to take action and responsibility and to live in a sustainable way.**

**That people have ready access to information about their local community, district and wider world, including knowing and valuing local people who have that knowledge.**

## Further Local Outcomes for Otaihanga

- That the Otaihanga Domain and other recreational reserves such as Greendale Reserve, the publicly accessible riverside pathways, the Western Link Corridor, the former landfill land, Southward Car Museum, and the Boating Club hall provide attractive, safe places for the community to enjoy.
- That the Boating Club building provides a useful publicly accessible community facility, protected from floods and with upgraded facilities including adequate parking.
- That a small-scale local facility, for example a café, is provided within an existing building such as the Boating Club or from a temporary seasonal cart in the Domain, in order to provide:
  - opportunities for social interaction and a focus point within the community; along with
  - a place for people to stop for refreshments when walking the Te Araroa walkway; and
  - potential links back to the historic uses of the area, for example, the Ferry Inn, which provided refreshments (and accommodation) for travellers along the Main Road which was then the coast.
- That the community is involved in any decision-making in relation to the potential future road connection between Makora Road/Otaihanga Road and The Drive/Kotuku Parks, especially in relation to design and placement of the road, as well as whether the road is formed at all.
- That recreational facilities for children include natural, informal play areas in reserves and along the river, as well as a playground designed in keeping with local character.
- That there is a good quality, appropriately landscaped Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways network (CWB) with tracks along the river (including loop tracks) and into the surrounding rural areas. Specific routes include:
  - along the banks of the Waikanae River from Otaihanga Domain to the Western Link Road, Jim Cooke Park or State Highway 1 via either the Otaihanga or Te Arawai footbridges;
  - from the Waikanae River to Camelot;
  - from Otaihanga Village to Camelot via the riverside pathways or other routes; and
  - from the Otaihanga Village footbridge to Paraparamu College via Kotuku Park.
- That access is provided within the CWB network for a variety of users, including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and people on mobility scooters. In addition:
  - both footbridges continue as a critical part of the CWB network;
  - there are identified river crossings for horses;
  - cycle racks, hitching posts for horses, and motor vehicle barriers are provided in key locations.
- That in balancing the need for access with the community's desire to retain a semi-rural character separate from Paraparamu, limited public transport services are available for those without private transport options.



“Residents of the new riverside subdivisions near the end of Otaihanga Road have formed their own Progressive Association ... Immediate aim of the new association is to hasten electric power reticulation, and then a substantial list of improvements will be accorded appropriate priority and submitted to various local authorities.”

*Kāpiti Observer, June 1954*



“These are places with landforms that we, as humans, have connected with over time ... We like the look and the feel of these places. They are the landscapes of our heritage, our ‘waahi taonga.’

*Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, “Managing Change in Paradise,” 2001*





Art by Bodhi Vincent

“Kapiti in the mist” image by Jonothan Parker



## THE LOCAL OUTCOMES AS A GUIDE

The *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* were formally adopted by the Kāpiti Coast District Council as a statement of the community's vision in 2004.

They have a legal status under the Local Government Act 2002.

Council actions are formally monitored to see how they contribute to these outcomes over time. A further review of the outcomes, as required under the Act, was carried out during 2009 and they must be reviewed at least every six years after that.

In addition to the districtwide community outcomes, a series of more locally community focused outcomes have been developed by each of the communities. These form the basis of this current series of local outcome documents and also have status under the Local Government Act 2002.

These Local Outcomes should be read in conjunction with the Districtwide Outcomes. Also read the Community Plan and Annual Plan to see how the Council is working to implement the districtwide local vision.