

Our future

Waikanae Beach

Community vision and action plan for Waikanae Beach.
March 2017.

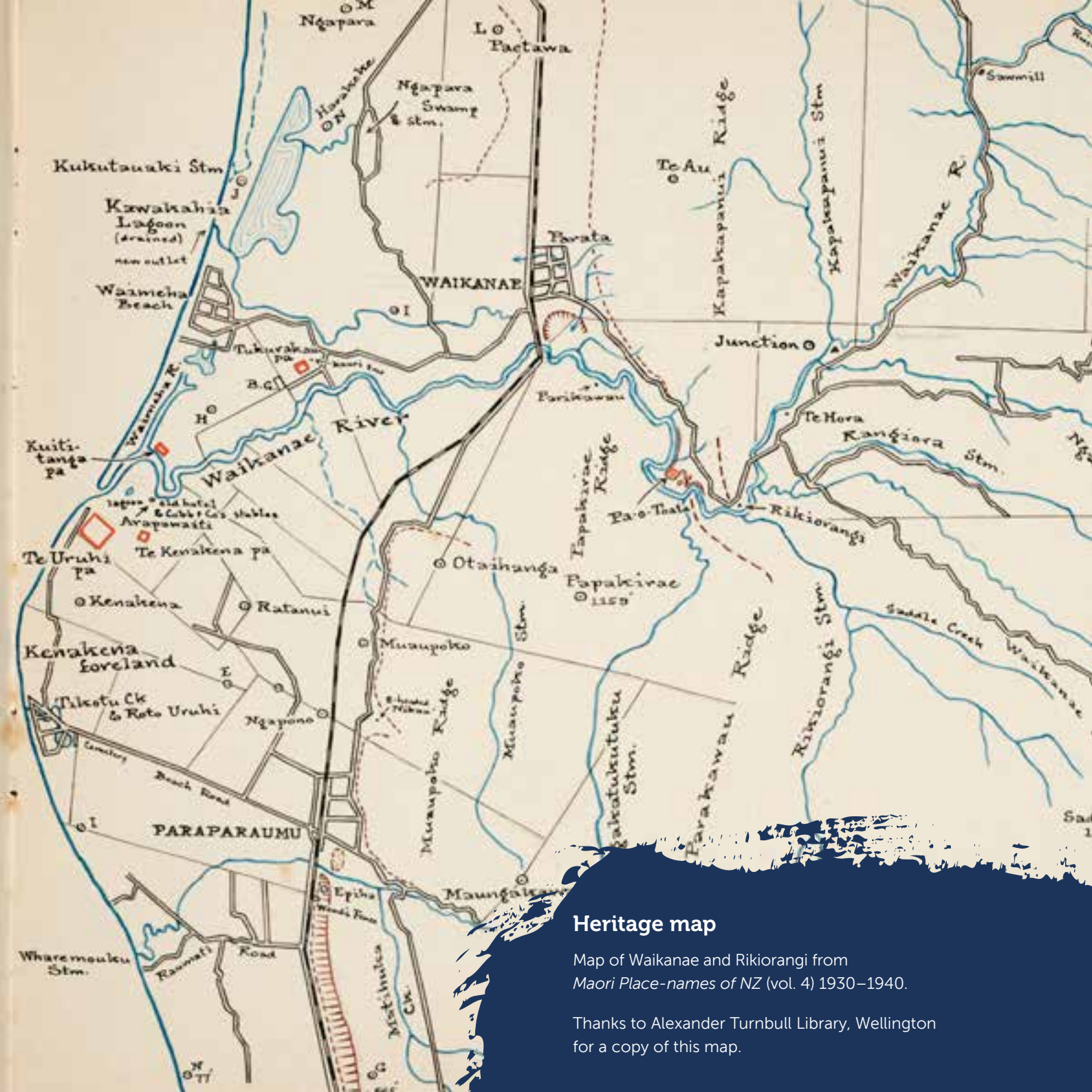


This is a living document, which will be regularly reviewed.

Contents

Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai	5
Introduction	6
What do we want for Waikanae Beach?	8
Waahi Tapu - protect and enhance our environment.....	10
Ukaipōtanga - encourage a slow pace.....	12
Whakapapa - preserve our eclectic character and history.....	14
Kaitiakitanga - build community resilience	16
Community Board endorsement statement.....	18
What we did.....	20
Glossary	23





Heritage map

Map of Waikanae and Rikiorangi from
Maori Place-names of NZ (vol. 4) 1930–1940.

Thanks to Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
for a copy of this map.

Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai

Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai are recognised as mana whenua and kaitiaki. As kaitiaki, we are responsible for protecting our taonga and ensuring the cultural threads of local iwi history and heritage, stories and character, identity, sense of place and sites of significance are reflected within the Waikanae Beach vision.

The following principles guide the Te Ātiawa vision:

- Maintain and enhance the living and enduring presence of Te Ātiawa.
- Support cultural narratives through the protection of landmarks, natural features and sites of significance.
- Improve access and movement of people of all ages to promote health and well-being.
- Retain the special and unique character of Waikanae Beach to enhance the experience for those who visit the area.

side of the Waikanae Golf Club. While much has changed about the landscape that supported our ancestors, evidence of our rich cultural foundations remain.

**Hutia te rito o te harakeke, kei hea rā te kōmako e kō?
Kī mai ki ahau, he aha te mea nui o te Ao?
Māku e kī atu, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata**

If you were to pluck out the centre of the flax bush, where would the bellbird sing?

If you were to ask me, "what is the most important thing in the world?"

I would reply, "it is people, people, people".

Migration and establishment

Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai first migrated to Waikanae from Taranaki in the 'Heke Whirinui' migration and were firmly established by the 1830s. As Te Ātiawa continued to settle Waikanae, the area known today as Waikanae Beach was a settlement and mahinga kai (a place for food collection/cultivation), as food was abundant. Waikanae Beach was part of a series of kainga and food gathering areas from Kenakena pā south of the Waikanae River through to the northern

**Whatu
ngarongaro te
tangata, toiti
te whenua**



Introduction

Our vision for Waikanae Beach's future

Within the wider Waikanae and Kāpiti Coast area, Waikanae Beach has the special character of a seaside village of an earlier time. It has a slow pace, where people meet one another out walking and stop for a chat; where there are many opportunities to get outside and enjoy natural and built environments, as well as open spaces – both for socialising and for time to oneself; where we are connected to a vibrant Waikanae Town Centre, our commercial and service hub.

Purpose

This vision will help the community work together and guide decision-making about Waikanae Beach. When reading and using this document:

- Look to the spirit of the document. We haven't imagined every scenario for the future of Waikanae Beach, so we have outlined the spirit of what the community wants for the area rather than including precise details for every situation.
- Waikanae Beach is an actively engaged community. We are keen, and expect to be, involved in decisions and planning for the area and our community. This document captures the current vision, but is not a replacement for engaging with our community.

Communities change, both in aspirations and who lives there. This vision will need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to remain current. As well as supporting the work of the community, the vision will inform the work of the Waikanae Community Board and provide evidence for the Kāpiti Coast District Council planning processes.





What do we want for Waikanae Beach?

Waikanae Beach has a strong sense of place. As a village, group of neighbourhoods and natural environment, it differs from other communities and we want to maintain this local character – mauri. While much has changed in relation to the area, the rich culture and history of iwi and early settlers remains. Capturing and sharing our culture and history ensures generations to come will never lose the knowledge of those communities, Māori and Pakeha, who previously occupied the area.

We love our community as it is, but recognise that inevitably there will be change. We feel strongly this should be planned and managed change. We need to recognise what gives Waikanae Beach its character and preserve these features, while having the freedom to live as we wish and allow our community to evolve.

Four principles make up this vision

- **Waahi Tapu** – protect our heritage, environment, river, estuaries, dunes, beach and mahinga kai, as well as our open public recreational spaces.
- **Ukaipōtanga** – encourage a slow pace and transport options that help us get around safely, while enjoying our environment.
- **Whakapapa** – preserve our eclectic character and history and explore ways to connect these stories for residents and visitors to the area.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – build resilience as a community and encourage and nurture connections between us.

It's a small town but it's big enough

(child)

Beachy, relaxed, villagey





Waahi Tapu – protect and enhance our environment

We love our open spaces, wide range of plants and animals, and natural environment. Our natural spaces connect us as a community, but also provide opportunities to be alone. Being able to easily access and use our beach and other natural spaces enhances our lives and is key to why we live here.

Facilities that help us have access to and use our open natural spaces without damaging them are important to us.

It is important that we:

- retain the un-manicured 'a little bit wild' look and our unbuilt natural environment
- enhance our dunes, rivers, wetlands and estuary
- restore and enhance eco-systems, including for mahinga kai species
- encourage native flora and fauna
- value significant introduced species where they enhance our use of the environment (such as macrocarpa trees)
- maintain and increase access to our open spaces and facilities that support their use.

*Open,
natural
spaces*

*Can hear all
the tuis, beach
and waves, not
a lot of cars*

(child)

Actions

Priority actions we identified as a community include:

1. continuing the regeneration and development of Pharazyn Reserve, Waikanae River and contributing waterways and wetlands
2. continuing to provide practical support for volunteer efforts to protect and enhance our environment
3. working together to better manage waterways and control flooding
4. restoring indigenous ecosystems and monitor progress
5. increasing planting of trees and maintaining those planted, while planning for the succession of indigenous and non-indigenous trees (e.g. planting for replacement of macrocarpa trees)
6. ensuring any development takes account of and fits into the unique natural environment of Waikanae Beach.





Ukaipōtanga **– encourage a slow pace**

We love the relaxed feeling of living here. We share a sense of nostalgia and enjoy being able to take a breath, slow down and enjoy our friends, family and environment. Our roads are not just for cars – they are shared spaces and help bring us together. Being able to cycle, walk, ride and safely get around our community matters to us.

It is important that we:

- keep the relaxed, holiday feeling and sense of nostalgia we experience being here
- balance the needs of all ages to get around safely
- support ideas that make it easier to walk, cycle and ride around our town
- support public transport that connects us to the rest of the district
- discourage heavy vehicles and high traffic flows
- maintain walkways and shared spaces for getting around and encourage using them
- recognise our need for both:
 - arterial routes to get us in and out of our community quickly
 - traffic to move slowly so we can all safely use our streets.

Actions

Priority actions we identified as a community include:

1. finding and introducing traffic calming measures that are right for our area
2. monitoring the impacts of the Expressway
3. improving safety in places of concern to make them safe for all ages and capabilities without changing the character of those places
4. promoting cycleways, walkways and bridleways as a positive way to move around the beach area including installing more bike stands
5. promoting easy and safe connections with Waikanae Town Centre, schools, the beach and the rest of the district and region, and providing accessible and appropriate timetables for public transport routes
6. creating welcoming entrances to Waikanae Beach which express the area's character
7. reporting and taking action against vehicles that are being illegally driven on the beach
8. looking for green travel ideas (e.g. electric vehicle and bike charging stations and bike hire).





Whakapapa – preserve our eclectic character and history

The special character of Waikanae Beach speaks to us. We are drawn to its natural and built environments, and want to protect and preserve these for present and future generations. We recognise that we are made up of a series of neighbourhoods, each with their own distinct and valued character.

We want to maintain the nostalgic atmosphere of a seaside village, where people can pursue their particular interests without impacting on others.

It is important that we:

- keep our low-rise building environment and rule out high-rise development
- support planning that favours low-key, small-scale businesses, which cater to residents and visitors
- encourage planning that clusters businesses in the traditionally defined areas
- support local businesses
- recognise and respect our culture and history and how it has shaped Waikanae Beach.

Actions

Priority actions we identified as a community include:

1. creating clear rules on development for each neighbourhood in Waikanae Beach, in keeping with the special character of that neighbourhood
2. expanding the existing heritage trail and enhancing cycleways, walkways and bridleways with rich stories about the history of the beach area
3. protecting and caring for our landmarks and historical features
4. promoting workshops in public spaces on harvesting, rongoā Māori, and iwi
5. telling the history and stories of our neighbourhoods and community for ourselves and our visitors.

*Unspoilt
and not
commercial*

*Rich culture
and history
of iwi*

*Nostalgic,
varied, clean
and green*





Kaitiakitanga – *Build community resilience*

Waikanae Beach is a special place that enriches our lives. We aspire to be a vibrant, inclusive, cohesive, safe community that supports all ages, cultures and interests. As we grow, we need to build a stronger, more resilient community.

It is important that we:

- get to know and look out for our neighbours
 - young, old, families and people who are on their own
- use and support current facilities, the natural environment and their social spaces, and provide for growth e.g. with community gardens (mara kai)
- nurture the natural places where we can bump into each other, while protecting the spaces where we can be alone
- develop spaces for learning in the natural environment for harvesting wild food, rongoā Māori, weaving, fishing and whitebaiting
- welcome and support diversity
- support creative expression, sports and recreational opportunities.

Actions

Priority actions we identified as a community include:

1. supporting community activities, groups, and events that bring us together as a community and give us the opportunity to talk with our neighbours
2. managing growth in tourism and campers
3. encouraging and providing more facilities and activities for teenagers and those in their 20s
4. supporting the Greener Neighbourhoods initiative
5. encouraging the use of Te Reo (speaking to one another and on signage)
6. build community resilience for emergencies

*A place to
breathe out*

*Lively,
village
environment*

*Space to
kick a ball*





Community Board endorsement statement

The Waikanae Community Board is proud to endorse this document, that encapsulates the vision of Waikanae Beach residents, and how they intend to achieve this through a number of actions. The Board also commends all those involved in this process on the quality of this document.

The Board sees this community as strong and cohesive with special character, and these attributes are reflected in the vision.

It is intended that this document has a long life, and it will be used as a springboard for actions. It will be used to develop a detailed character assessment of Waikanae Beach and then support a draft plan change for Waikanae Beach.

The Waikanae Community Board will continue to support the Waikanae Beach community to ensure the actions of the vision occur and that the vision document is updated when needed, linked to the annual review of the Board's strategic plan.

Our Future-Waikanae Beach will be used to help the community work together and to advocate for support towards actions that support their vision. *Our Future-Waikanae Beach* will inform council planning and service provision and will be used as evidence for a draft plan change.



Next steps

Members of the community are already working together for the future of Waikanae Beach with the Community Board.

The community will work with the Waikanae Community Board to develop implementation and monitoring processes to support the work.

*Waikanae
Beach is a
unique little
paradise*

*A place
where the
dunes strike you,
not the structures
on them*





Waikanae Beach sits within an ecological corridor stretching from the mountains to the sea. For the purpose of this work, Waikanae Beach is the area from around Pharazyn Reserve in the north to the Waikanae River in the south and the Kāpiti Expressway in the east.



What we did

With the construction of the Kāpiti Expressway and other new developments proposed for Waikanae Beach, the community saw an opportunity to be proactive and state what it wants for the future of the area rather than being responsive and managing impacts.

Background

The Waikanae Beach community, Waikanae Community Board and Kāpiti Coast District Council agreed the time was right to explore this, so the information could be used to inform planning and the future development of Waikanae Beach.

The council ran drop-in sessions at Waikanae Beach in September and November 2015, and this helped them understand what the community's concerns and interests were, as well as what kind of process might be helpful.

Process

Forming the group

After these sessions, the council invited residents to contact them if they were interested in being part of a working group to explore what they wanted for the future of Waikanae Beach.

This invitation was extended to all of the local community to be involved in the process.

As a result of these invitations, a group of locals (including two Waikanae Community Board members) met for the first time on 21 March 2016 at the Uniting Parish Hall in Taiata Street.

Make up of the group

The group was made up of local residents who responded to the invitation. We also engaged with local primary and secondary pupils, local business owners and Te Ātiawa to gain their perspectives.

Members of the group included:

- Angela Lee
- Anne Geelen
- Brent Cherry
- Bridget Ryley



- Charles Lloyd
 - David Houston
 - Diane Connal
 - Gerald Rys
 - Glen Wiggs
 - Gordon Shroff (incl. some photos)
 - James Westbury (Waikanae Community Board member)
 - Jeanette Manson
 - Jenny Pritchard
 - Joanna Poole
 - Jocelyn Prvanov (Waikanae Community Board member)
 - Kate Hartmann
 - Kate Morgan
 - Laurie Petherick
 - Louise Aitken
 - Marie Shroff (also volunteer facilitator)
 - Mike Higgins
 - Sara Bell
 - Sue Rys
 - Tim Parry
 - Tony Pritchard
 - Victoria Smith
 - Warwick Southee
- Te Ātiawa Town Centres' Working Group:**
Rawhiti Higgott
Tracey Morgan
Ann-Maree Ellison
- Kāpiti Coast District Council staff:**
Sam Hutcheson
Brandy Griffin
Linda Gilbert (visual scribe)

Group purpose

On the first night, the group determined that the objective of the working group was:

"To develop a range of wide and inclusive options for how to move towards a collective Waikanae Beach Community vision and report these back to the wider community."

The focus was to be on 'the big picture', while keeping things real.

Process we followed

In all, seven full working group meetings were held over four months with each meeting following a different theme and then determining the logistics of our reporting back.

Te Ātiawa

The integration of iwi views into this document is one of the cornerstones of its success. The rich culture and history of iwi in the area and their ongoing relationship with the land provides a depth to the document. Engaging with iwi in this process was achieved through the Te Ātiawa Town Centres' Working Group.

Engagement with the community

We had full and frank discussions about our aspirations for Waikanae Beach and there was a large degree of common ground. There was recognition that sometimes contrasting needs are both important (for example, wanting a slow and safe pace, while needing arterial roads for getting in and out of Waikanae Beach quickly at commuting times). Fundamentally, the group had a common vision for Waikanae Beach and a key theme throughout our discussions has been to retain our sense of place.



The local community were invited through various ways to a drop-in session to see our work at the Waikanae Beach Community Hall on 10 July 2016. Working group members hosted the session and gave brief presentations, outlining what the afternoon and the working group were about. The information developed during the working group meetings was displayed in large format on the walls. People were asked to post their comments on these.

The feedback from the session strongly supported and reiterated the thinking of the working group. A number of other issues were mentioned and have been incorporated into the vision and action plan.

Council also supported the process by meeting with local primary and secondary pupils, business owners and the Te Ātiawa Town Centres' Working Group, on the working group's behalf, to gain their input.

Glossary

Arawaewae o Waikanae

Walkway of Waikanae.

Harakeke

New Zealand flax
(*Phormium tenax*).

Kaitiaki

Caretaker, guardian.

Kainga

Village, settlement.

Kaitiakitanga

The ethic of kaitiakitanga is based on the maintenance of the mauri (natural energy) of the natural world. The exercise of kaitiakitanga involves the observance of tikanga Māori (Māori customary law). It is not an alternative method of resource management, but rather western and kaitiakitanga-based systems can complement one another. The practice of kaitiakitanga is an obligation to both tūpuna (ancestors) and mokopuna (grandchildren).

Mahinga kai

Traditional places for the gathering of kai (includes lakes, rivers, whenua).

Mana whenua

People that have governance over an area of land.

Mara kai

Garden, cultivation.

Mauri

Mauri is the life-force and energy associated with the natural environment. It can be observed in the quality and health of soils as well as fresh and ground water, bio and habitat diversity, and the endurance of the natural character of the landscape.

Rongoā Māori

Natural remedy, traditional treatment, Māori medicine.

Taonga

Resource, treasure.

Ukaipōtanga

Ūkaipōtanga is a place where Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and the wider community can feel they belong, have value and are able to contribute. Aspects of the planning for the beach area should be identifiably Te Ātiawa.

Waahi tapu

Waahi tapu sites, deemed sacred or imbued with spiritual and heritage significance are a distinctive feature of the Kāpiti Coast. There are many places within this area that were thriving iwi settlements and we want to preserve and promote these.

Whakapapa

Whakapapa are the inter-relationships of all living and non-living things within the natural environment. Whakapapa provides people with a genealogical framework for understanding how they relate to each other and the environment. Underlying an understanding of whakapapa is the principle that the health of the people and the health of the environment are inextricably linked.

Whatu ngarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua

People will perish but the land is permanent.

Supported by:

