

Waiheke Local Board end of term report

November 2013 – October 2016

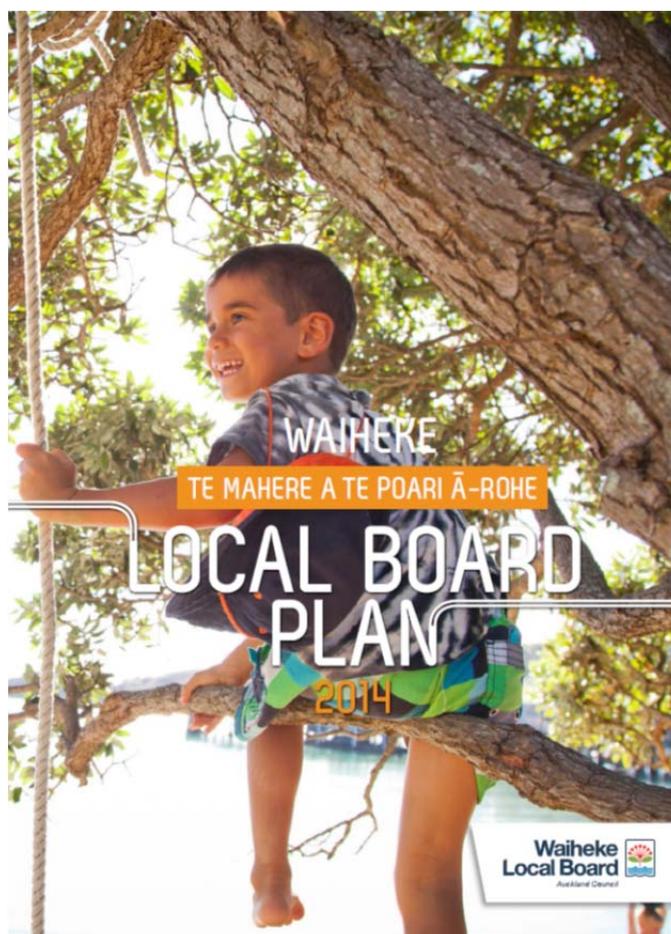
Local Board Plan 2014-2017

In October 2014, the Waiheke Local Board adopted the final local board plan setting out a framework to guide decision-making and actions for the next three years in the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The local board plan expresses what the board heard from the community during a series of public engagement forums and formal consultation.

The board launched the final plan at a local event in November 2014 hosted by international community speaker, facilitator and activator Jim Diers, inspiring the community to take action and get involved in delivering outcomes in their community. These outcomes include:

- Treasured islands, coastlines, wetlands and marine areas;
- A sustainable and prosperous local economy;
- Thriving, strong and engaged communities;
- Connected, healthy and environmentally-friendly transport options;
- Vibrant places that reflect the character of the island;
- Matiatia, gateway to Waiheke.

This report provides a summary of some of the achievements and successes over the three years of this term.



Outcome - Treasured islands, coastlines, wetlands and marine areas

We will work to protect, maintain and enhance our magical islands, land, coastline, wetland and marine environments for Auckland's future generations.

Completed projects:

- Rangihoua / Onetangi Reserve: Cultural values assessment, Pavilion upgrade, dam rebuild, pedestrian and bridle trail, wetland restoration, helipad, signage;
- Putiki Reserve: Footpath construction and carpark relocation;
- Causeway / Putiki Bay boat clean-up and monitoring;
- Ostend Reserve: Construction of boat wash, seawall and footpath (community partnership approach), garden pruned and planted, playground upgraded;
- McKenzie Reserve: Staged funding to Friends of McKenzie Reserve for planting and signage;
- Kaitiakitanga: Pilot community-led environmental restoration programme sees volunteer hours double due to regular promotion of planting and weeding days;
- Volunteer kit: Complete including trailer, gazebo, bbq, loudspeaker;
- Herbicide use: Non-chemical weed management retained following advocacy;
- Little Oneroa lagoon: Community-based remediation project commenced;
- Educational / interpretative signs: Installed along walkways, cycleways and bridle paths.



Interpretative sign at Matiatia

Projects underway:

- Water-sensitive road design: Board advocacy has resulted in Auckland Transport introducing a new road renewals process which includes storm-water design by the council's Healthy Waters Team;

- Sedimentation: Review compliance and consenting of earthworks and construction around Waiheke in order to monitor the impact on the deteriorating state of receiving environment;
- Marine environment initiatives: Progressing a network of marine protected areas that link our islands, including a Colmar Brunton survey to all residents and ratepayers on Waiheke regarding marine protected areas;
- Waste: Supporting community-driven initiatives to reduce waste going to landfill by using renewable resources or recycling.

Key initiative:

Marine Protected Areas

The natural environment, marine life and biodiversity of the Hauraki Gulf are in decline. In the Waiheke Local Board Plan 2014, the board advocates for a network of marine protected areas to be established connecting the islands in the Waiheke Local Board area. The board funded an independent survey to find out whether the community supported additional protection, what level of support there was for this and what areas or locations would make up the network. The survey showed that there was a strong level of support for marine protected areas and no take marine reserves. The board resolved to engage with relevant ministers, local members of Parliament, Auckland Council, mana whenua and members of the community to determine how we can use the results of this survey to advance the objective on increasing protected areas including no take marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf.



Outcome - A sustainable and prosperous local economy

Our Waiheke community has a strong, independent, entrepreneurial spirit and our natural assets provide many economic and lifestyle opportunities. We will support the local economy to flourish.

Completed projects:

- Walking Festival funding support: Aligned to Te Ara Hura walkway. Last year was the biggest event yet with over 2300 registrations;
- Headland Sculpture on the Gulf support: This biennial event along the Matiatia coastal walk now achieves over 55,000 visitors and has considerable international acclaim;
- Jazz by the Sea, Onetangi Beach Races, Waiheke Poetry Festival: Funding support continues for locally grown events;
- Refresh of Essentially Waiheke: Over 650 people were consulted during development of the revised document. A month-long public consultation process followed. Key themes expressed in the document (community, environment, economy and infrastructure) were supported by the feedback with more than 80% of respondents agreeing these reflected island views.
- Business support: Capacity building for local businesses supported through initiatives such as business growth workshops, business advice and skills development via The Learning Centre;
- Local procurement: Following a dedicated drive to support local procurement the number of successful council tenders from locally based contractors has increased;
- Community enterprise: Supporting the development of the WaiDrive project (learn to drive programme) and Ostend Market marketing programme;
- Tourism: Waiheke voted Lonely Planet World's fifth best region and Conde Nast – Fourth best island in the world;
- Tourism impact: Encouraging and supporting low-impact, sustainable tourism ventures such as arts and crafts, walking and e-cycling;
- Investment in programmes which promote Waiheke's natural environment.

Projects underway:

- Active transport networks: Continued development and marketing of networks for walking, cycling and horse riding;
- Tourism impact and infrastructure: Continue to advocate for regional funding to meet the costs of additional demands which visitors place on infrastructure, services and facilities;



Key initiative:

Old Library Space - Artworks Learning Centre

The Waiheke Local Board secured funding to upgrade the old library space through advocating to the governing body as part of the Long Term Plan process. Following a call for expressions of interest, Waiheke Adult Literacy was awarded funding to activate the space and develop a programme to support learning, business development and social enterprise on the island.

The space was named The Learning Centre and now provides a range of courses and pilot schemes for local businesses and community organisations in collaboration with the local board and Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED).

The space is also available for hire and is well used by community groups including the Artworks Cinema and Art Gallery.



Outcome - Thriving, strong and engaged communities

Waiheke residents have a strong sense of identity and wellbeing which is enhanced through active community participation.

Completed projects:

- Waiheke Youth Voice: New youth council established, initiated and supported. This includes funding to enable youth outcomes such as event management, first aid training and capacity building;
- Fruit-tree planting: In public spaces and road reserves in collaboration with the board, parks team and community volunteers – Putiki Reserve, Blackpool, Rakino, Onetangi, Surfdale (over 800 fruit and nut trees planted on Waiheke and Rakino islands);
- Water supply: Design and deliver Waiheke Way water conservation brochure in collaboration with the Waiheke Council of Social Services;
- World War One Commemoration programme: Led and delivered by the RSA;
- Christmas event: Delivered in partnership with Waiheke Youth Voice;
- Carols by the Sea: Continuation of popular annual event;
- Waiheke Volunteer's Day support and Outstanding Community Service Awards;
- Optimisation of council-owned land and buildings: Board-led review identified opportunities for better utilisation and affordability. This has led to the board trialling a community managed facility model at the Ostend War Memorial Hall in collaboration with the RSA;
- Onetangi Backpackers: Board successfully advocated the transfer of the backpackers from Panuku Development Auckland to Community facilities. This will help ensure the facility is sustainable and provides outcomes in line with community aspirations;
- Pensioner and community housing: Business case and needs assessment completed in partnership with the Waiheke Social Housing steering group and Ngati Paoa.



Key initiative:

Waiheke Pātaka Kōrero, Waiheke Library

Waiheke Pātaka Kōrero, Waiheke Library was officially opened in July 2014 with a dawn blessing by Ngāti Pāoa and civic ceremony by Mayor Len Brown. The building is four times the size of its predecessor and incorporates sustainable design features such as passive solar heating and natural day lighting. The larger space provides for recreational reading and study; dedicated areas for children, teenagers and adults; and space for hosting events such as story time for children and adult book groups. Information technology has been vastly improved, including more public computers and free WiFi within and beyond the library building.

The new building and grounds are enriched by four works of permanent integrated art that evoke the island's distinct stories and character. These include Waiheke Pou Whakara by Chris Bailey (head carver – pictured below); integrated glass design - Ngaruhora by Lorna Dixon-Rikihana, forty-nine letters by Kazu Nakagawa and The Great Optimism by Bob Stewart.

The Library and Artworks courtyard was the location for Auckland Council's 2016 Matariki dawn karakia celebrations.



Outcome - Connected, healthy and environmentally-friendly transport options

We have environmentally-friendly, safe and integrated transport options that encourage walking, cycling and horse riding.

Completed projects:

- Auckland Transport Design guide for Hauraki Gulf Islands: Board provides significant input and recommendations into draft guidelines.
- Successful advocacy for water sensitive road design projects such as Gordon's Road;
- Sea View Road and Eura Road footpath: Community delivered project providing safe access to Waiheke primary school (pictured);
- New Pearl Bay to Orapiu Road track;
- New Days Grave Track from Cowes Bay Road to Pakihi Bay;
- New walkway providing access to Deadmans Bay and Awaawaroa Bay;
- Transport Capital Fund projects:
 - Causeway Reserve footpath 200m;
 - Donald Bruce Road cyclelane, providing safe cycle access for primary and high school students travelling to and from school (pictured), and motorcycle / scooter parking area;
 - Alison Road footpath improvements;
 - Hamilton Road footpath improvements;
 - Red chip seal multi-user path, linking with Onetangi Road and O'Brien Road networks, providing safe off-road access to Onetangi and Onetangi Sports Park,
 - Ocean View Road / Mako Street footpath;
 - Ostend Road verge - Remove Bamboo and form trail.

Projects underway:

- 10 year transport plan: Continue to advocate for the development of a plan that encourages active transport and promotes safety, while retaining Waiheke's rural character, identify priority areas for road and footpath maintenance and upgrades, reviews ferry and bus routes, affordability and frequency;
- Matiatia to Oneroa track upgrade: Through Te Atawhai Whenua, in collaboration with Waiheke Forest and Bird;
- National cycleway partnership with Auckland Transport;
- Travelwise school programme: Continuing to advocate;
- Greenways Plan: Including digitised user map and strategy document for extension and upgrade of network;



Sea View Road and Eura Road footpath (community delivered project)



Donald Bruce Road cyclelane

Key initiative:

Te Ara Hura

Waiheke's natural beauty is a major attraction for local residents and visitors. In November 2014 the Waiheke Local Board completed a network of walkways called Te Ara Hura (the discovery path) that stretch 100km and loop the island. Several sections of Te Ara Hura were upgraded including Cable Bay to Owhanake coastal walkway, Watter's Glen zig-zag footpath to Hekerua Bay and First Avenue track to Pohutukawa Reserve network.

Interpretative signage marking the walkways was locally designed and delivered to complement the natural environment and Waiheke's unique style. A series of maps and brochures were produced highlighting the four areas of Te Ara Hura - headlands, beaches 'n' baches, forest heart and far end. This information has been used by transport operators, businesses and accommodation providers to market the walking trail and promote sustainable tourism.



Outcome - Vibrant places that reflect the character of the island

Our parks, reserves and beaches are cared for by residents and visitors who enjoy the sport, recreation and leisure opportunities they provide. People also love to use our range of community, arts and cultural facilities.

Completed projects:

- Develop interpretative signs: Including heritage information and acknowledgment of sites of cultural significance;
- Directional signs throughout Te Ara Hura: Reflecting the local character and are easily followed and understood;
- Mana whenua: Working with mana whenua to ensure their sites of cultural significance are protected and interpreted during the management and development of our open space network;
- Piritahi Marae: Funding to support the dressing and opening of the Piritahi Marae meeting House Whare Whakairo;
- Water supply: Installation of drinking water in our parks;
- Lighting for Football Pitch at Rangihoua Onetangi Sports Park;
- Capital funding grants for our local sports and recreation facilities:
 - Waiheke Recreation Centre;
 - Waiheke Sports Club court upgrade, Ostend;
 - Sea Scout Hut building repairs, Putiki Bay;
 - Tennis Volley Wall, Rangihoua Onetangi Sports Park;

Projects underway:

- Community swimming pool: Feasibility study complete, awaiting outcome of MOU school rebuild;
- Artworks complex upgrade: Continuing to support development as an arts and cultural precinct, including advocating for an upgrade of the entire complex;
- Artworks complex building: Repairs and improvements;
- Community Shed initiative: Location identified, awaiting overall strategy for site.



Key initiative:

Alison Park concept plan and Oneroa Bowling Club lease

Following the relinquishment of the Oneroa Bowling Club lease in 2012 the building was refurbished. There was much public interest in the facility including the local croquet group who used the greens weekly. The board were keen to see a local group managing the building, including providing a bookable area for other community groups, and to facilitate the delivery of services and programmes for the local area.

To enable community use of the building a minor variation to the Alison Park Management Plan 1995 had to be completed, along with a reclassification of the building footprint. The board combined this with the development of a new concept plan for Alison Park and undertook consultation with the community.

Following a contestable expression of interest process, Waiheke Resources Trust were the recommended tenant given their emphasis on alignment with local board outcomes and programmes, links to Alison Park together with providing access to other community groups. They have named the facility the Sustainability Centre, and community workshops on sustainable practices such as composting, recycling and weed management, are well attended.

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Alison Park Concept Plan

Overall Plan

A Main Entrance

- Create a more visible and welcoming main entrance. Refer to page 7 for more.

B The Greens

- A functional Green that enables a range of appropriate community uses. Refer to page 7 for more.

C Natural Play and Recreation

- Indicative location of an all-ages natural play area.
- New exercise equipment introduced. Potential to create an equipment circuit around the park. Locations to be determined.
- New seating and picnic tables.

D Northern Entrance

- Create a more visible entrance. Improve accessibility and safety.
- Plant boggy areas with wet-tolerant plants. Potential to incorporate a board walk at northern entry point.
- Prune lower branches of trees to improve sight-lines into the park.

E Eastern Entrance

- Improve entrance via surface treatments, planting and signage. Keep existing stone bridge. Review visibility into Alison Park.
- Reduce weed species and plant with wet-tolerant native species.
- Review access steps up the hill. Potential for a graded walkway if slope requirements can be met.

Key

- Primary pedestrian access
- Informal pedestrian access
- Pathway
- Streams
- Existing vegetation
- Existing building and structure

Paths Across the Park

- Widen existing sealed pedestrian path to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.
- Add a new main path along spur to connect the Green with Oneroa Village.
- Establish a series of informal paths across the park. Use surface treatment such as gravel or mown strips to differentiate from main paths.
- Establish a loop track around the perimeter of the park.
- Use small timber bridges for access over streams.
- Signage within and around park to assist with way-finding. Signage also needed at the Oneroa Village centre to direct visitors to Alison Park.

Vegetation Across the Park

- Develop a plant strategy. Plant palette could include native NZ coastal plants that can tolerate wet feet in winter and dry summers, productive plants and others.
- Develop weed management strategy for the entire park and undertake on an on-going basis.
- Prune lower branches of mature trees to provide better sight lines across park.
- In conjunction with future planting, remove unhealthy/poorly located trees and shrubs. Where possible, re-use wood for features across the park such as playgrounds and seating.
- Replace grass along steep bank adjoining Ocean View Road with low height native plants to reduce maintenance costs.
- Extend native planting to the Kuaku Road road edge to reduce maintenance costs.
- Plant around existing stormwater drains with wet-tolerant native plant species.
- Extend existing tracts of bush and/or stands of trees with native planting.

Adopted by the Waiheke Local Board 26 May 2016.

Outcome - Matiatia, gateway to Waiheke

Our gateway to Waiheke is protected and enhanced.

Completed projects:

- Commencement of Matiatia strategic planning project in partnership with the community, the council and mana whenua, including identification of short, medium and long term goals;
- Cultural Values Assessment of Matiatia completed by Ngati Paoa;
- Matiatia interpretation signage installation - telling the cultural, historic, social and environmental stories of the Matiatia area;
- Upgrade of Te Atawhai Whenua walkway (from Matiatia to Oneroa) and improvement of signage and connecting tracks;
- Directional signs in the Matiatia and Church Bay Road area to make it easier for people to find their way to and from the vineyards from the ferry;

Projects underway:

- Continuation of the Matiatia strategic planning project in partnership with the community, the council and mana whenua;
- Review of parking at Matiatia and reallocation of space in keyhole.



Local Board submissions and feedback:

Local boards have a role in communicating the views of local people on regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws to the governing body. Feedback into regional plans and bylaws over this term has included:

- Air Quality & Alcohol Controls bylaws
- AT Code of Practice
- Regional Pest Management Strategy
- Local Boards Funding Policy Review
- Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)
- Auckland Transport Berm Planting Guidelines
- Auckland Energy Resilience and Low Carbon Action Plan
- Dog access rule review
- Alcohol Control Bylaw
- Allocation of Decision Making Review
- Community Grants Policy
- Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan
- LTP 2015-2025 Feedback on Mayoral Proposal
- Community Facilities Network Plan
- Council Controlled Organisation Review
- Local Approved Product Policy
- Interim Open Space Provision Guidelines
- Auckland Regional Public Transport Plan
- Auckland Regional Funding Amenities Act
- Draft Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Plan
- Marine Protected Areas Submission
- Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill
- National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity