



## Village Goings On

### *Small tales of things*

While researching the content for the Koitiata History project many bits of information on village projects popped up from many sources. There were endeavours that only got up to the good-idea stage, and there were those clever ideas or activities that eventuated.

Standing alone some are not big subjects, but when these things that have gone on in the village are combined, they tell a story. They collectively illustrate that the Koitiata community has always been, and continues to be, up to going on about getting things done.

This is not a definitive collection of goings on, it might expand.

<b>Private Power System</b>	Page 3-12	1956: A great neighbourly 'do-it-yourself' project.
<b>Village Water Supply</b>	Page 13-15	1960's: Not just a scheme, it was costed.
<b>Entrance to Village</b>	Page 16-22	1996/2000: We need to know where we are.
<b>Where Are We?</b>	Page 23-24	1999: We really did need a sign to show where we are.
<b>Closing Teone Street</b>	Page 25-34	2001-03: Someone had it in for that front track.
<b>Lagoon Bridge</b>	Page 35-45	2004-06: Getting to the beach with dry feet.
<b>Rapaki Street Signs</b>	Page 46-48	2006: Rapakai or Rapaki, it is not just the street's residents who are confused.
<b>Doing The Broadband Internet</b>	Page 49-52	2010/11: Getting broadband internet was a village do-it-yourself clever idea project.
<b>Rates Increase! Not Happy About That</b>	2012/13:	This subject has been moved to its own 'book' due to size of content, <i>"Going On About Rates"</i> .

# Private Power Scheme

## Private Power Scheme

---

Page 5-6      February 1956: Seeking and getting local authority approval.

---

Page 7-10     March/April 1956: Getting State Hydro-Electric Department approval.

---

Page 11-12    May 1956: Electric Line Licence with official Order In Council.

---

Who would have guessed?

Koitiata had an approved electricity generation and transmission scheme in the village. And it all happened in 1956, nearly ten years before the village was connected to the main grid.

Charles Bulloch had his own windmill generating setup on his section at 33 Rapaki street. He must have decided that he could share his surplus electricity with his next-door neighbour, Henry Marchant at 31 Rapaki.

This scheme wasn't going to be one of those *'throw-an-extension-cord-over-the-fence'* systems, it would be an above-board underground cable system.

First permission was sought and granted from Koitiata Domain Board, then to the higher authorities.

Then in no time at all an Electric Line Licence granted from State Hydro-Electric Department and approved by Administrator of the Government.

Turn on the lights!

*Note: There is information in "Recollections" from Maurice Heidrich in "Turakina Beach Memories", of using car batteries with a wind driven car generator to power a 6-volt lighting in the 1930's.*



IN/SAW.

10th February, 1956.

Mr. H.G. Marchant,  
P.O. Box 286,  
WAIKAREMATA.

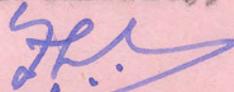
Dear Sir,

re Kaitiaki Domain

In reply to your letter of 8th instant I have to advise that the Kaitiaki Domain Board will raise no objection to your obtaining power from your neighbour, Mr. C. Bullock, at Kaitiaki.

A plan of the township is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,



County Clerk

Secretary, Kaitiaki Domain  
Board

Encl.



In replying

S.H.D.

11/20/2349

please quote these numbers.

Telegraphic Address,  
"Waterpower"

STATE HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 8025, Government Buildings, Wellington.

15 March 1956.

The County Clerk,  
Rangitikei County Council,  
P.O. Box 22,  
MARTON.

Dear Sir,

Electric Line Licence : H.G. Marchant, Koitiata.

Enclosed is a copy of a draft licence authorizing the above named to erect and use certain electric lines in the County of Rangitikei.

You have already stated to Mr Marchant that the Koitiata Domain Board would raise no objection to this arrangement for electrical supply, but I should be glad if in addition you would advise me whether the local body concerned would have any objection to the issue of a licence in the form of the draft.

Yours faithfully,

A.E. Davenport. *off.*  
General Manager.

... Encl:



SCHEDULE

Lines for the supply of electrical energy by the systems of supply hereinbefore described, commencing from a generator situated in section 14, Township of Kaitiaki, and proceeding in an easterly direction to the licensee's cottage situated in section 15, Township of Kaitiaki; all being situated in part section 5, Block I, Kaitiaki Survey District, in the County of Rangitikei; the said lines and buildings being more particularly shown on the plan marked, S.H.D. 388, deposited in the office of the State Hydro Electric Department at Wellington.

Clerk of the Executive Council

(S.H.D. 11/20/2349)

IN/SAW

16th April, 1956.

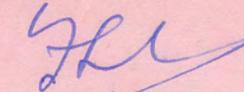
The General Manager,  
State Hydro-Electric Department,  
P.O. Box 8025,  
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

re Electric Line License - Mr. H.G. Marchant, Kaitiata

I have to advise that this Council has no objection to the issuing of an electric line license to Mr. H.G. Marchant to enable him to obtain power from a neighbour at Kaitiata.

Yours faithfully,



County Clerk

Your Ref: 11/20/2349

In replying

S.H.D. 11/20/2349

please quote these numbers.



## STATE HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 8025,  
Government Buildings,  
Wellington.

28 May, 1956.

geographic Address,  
"Waterpower"

The County Clerk,  
Rangitikei County Council,  
P.O. Box 22,  
MARTON.

Dear Sir,

Electric Line Licence : H.G. Marchant, Koitiata.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Order in Council authorising the above named to erect and use certain electric lines in the county of Rangitikei.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A.E. Davenport'.

A.E. Davenport  
General Manager.

7 le ...Encl:

[Extract from *N.Z. Gazette*, 17 May 1956, No. 29, page 652]

*Authorising Henry George Marchant, of Wanganui, Company Manager, to Erect and Use Certain Electric Lines in the County of Rangitikei.*

H. E. BARROWCLOUGH,  
Administrator of the Government

#### ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 16th day of  
May 1956

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT  
IN COUNCIL

**P**URSUANT to the Public Works Act 1928, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby authorises Henry George Marchant, of Wanganui, Company Manager (hereinafter referred to as the licensee), subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, to lay, construct, put up, place, and use the electric lines described in the Schedule hereto.

#### CONDITIONS

##### IMPLIED CONDITIONS

1. The conditions directed to be implied in all licences by the Electrical Supply Regulations 1935 and the Electrical Wiring Regulations 1935 shall be incorporated in and shall form part of this licence, except in so far as the same may be inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

##### LICENCE SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS

2. In respect of the electric lines hereby authorised the licensee shall comply with the Electrical Supply Regulations 1935, the Electrical Wiring Regulations 1935, the Radio Interference Regulations 1934, and with all regulations hereafter made in amendment thereof or in substitution therefor respectively.

##### SYSTEM OF SUPPLY

3. The system of supply shall be as described in paragraph (j) of regulation 21-01 of the Electrical Supply Regulations 1935, and shall be a direct-current system at a normal rated pressure of 32 volts.

##### DURATION OF LICENCE

4. Unless sooner lawfully determined, this licence shall continue in force until the 31st day of March 1977, or until electrical energy is available from an electric power board or some other public source of supply, whichever is the earlier.

#### SCHEDULE

**LINES** for the supply of electrical energy by the system of supply hereinbefore described, commencing from a generator situated in Section 14, Township of Koitiata, and proceeding in an easterly direction to the licensee's cottage situated in Section 15, Township of Koitiata; all being situated in part Section 5, Block I, Koitiata Survey District, in the County of Rangitikei; the said lines and buildings being more particularly shown on the plan marked S.H.D. 388 deposited in the office of the State Hydro-electric Department at Wellington.

T. J. SHERRARD, Clerk of the Executive Council.  
(S.H.D. 11/20/2349)

R. E. OWEN, Government Printer, Wellington, New Zealand.

# Village Water Supply

## Village Water Supply

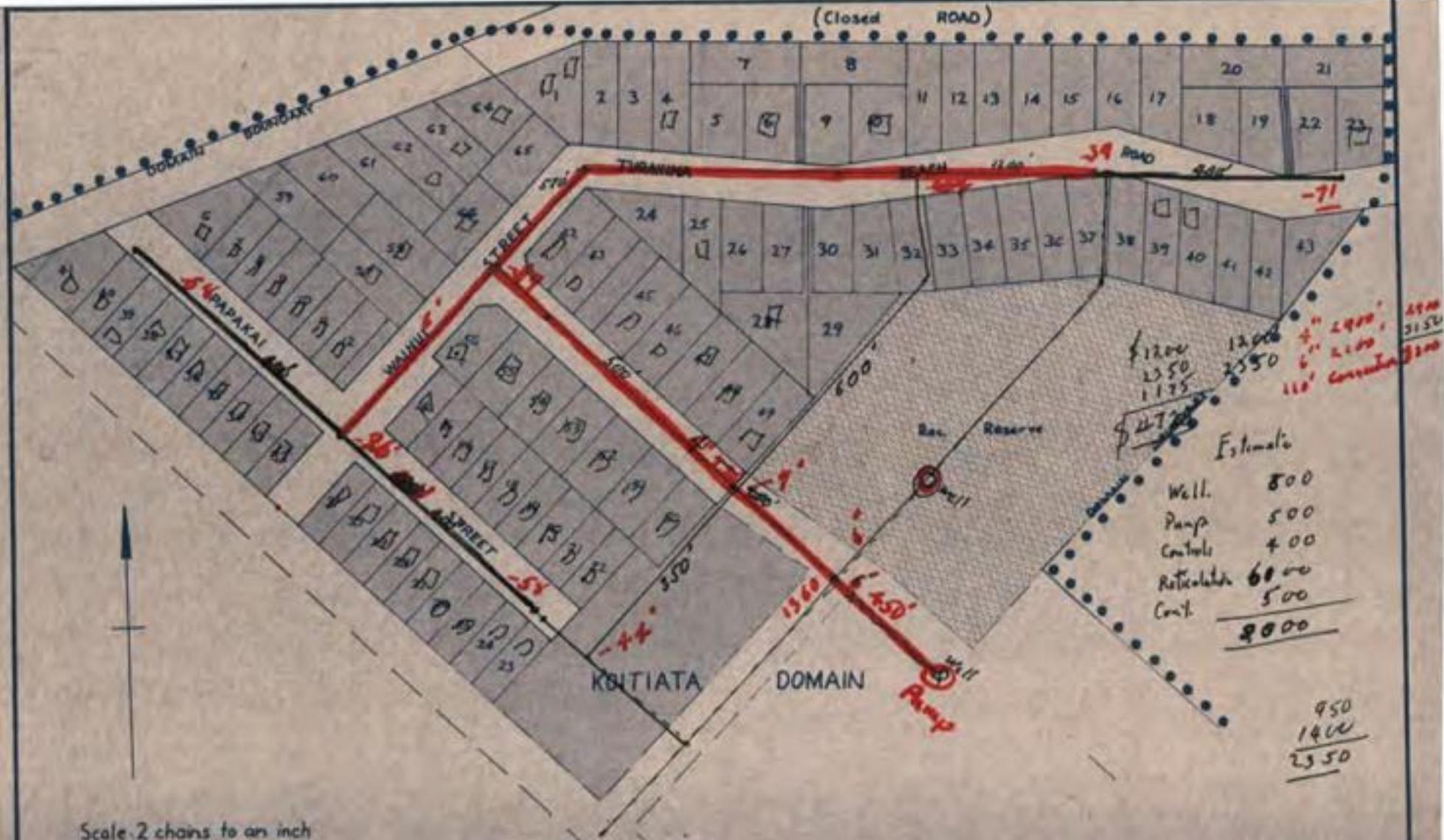
The map on the next page, probably from the late 1960's, shows a sketched-out plan for a Proposed Water Supply for the township of Koitiata.

The source was to be a well and pump located on the southern edge of the 'domain'. It also shows a second proposed well but as there is no more information additional to the map we can't suggest why.

The pipeline was to run from the pump, running along Omanu street, branching left and right into and along Wainui street, and then into Rapaki street, north and south.

It would have been easy digging for the pipelines, our streets were not sealed at that time.

There is an estimate written on the map of \$8000 which with inflation would be a bargain at today's prices.



# Entrance to Village

## Entrance to the Village

---

Page 18-19      1986: Seeking permission and the plan of proposed sign.

---

Page 20            1999: Plan for the village entrance planting.

---

Page 21            2000: Extract from KRC minutes and photo about the people's  
Welcome to Koitiata sign.

---

Page 22            2004: Photo of the buoy, high and dry, waiting to be saved.

---

The entrance to our village was created during the years 1996 to 2000. The scheme started in 1996 with a proposal for a *Welcome to Koitiata* sign.

This wasn't going to any ordinary sign; this would be a '*you-are-very-close-to-the-sea*' kind of sign. The proposal was to use a 1.4m diameter steel buoy, to be suspended from a frame and suitably painted and sign written.

It never happened and after being rejected as a sign, the buoy was placed into the lagoon. It was hoped that it would float and become a *jumping-off-thingy-for-kids*. A photo taken in 2004 shows the buoy stranded on the bank of the lagoon to the south of the village. It was 'salvaged' a few years later by a village 'collector of things'.

The next stage of our village entrance was the creation of the entrance threshold and gardens in 1999. The threshold was designed as a traffic management device, intending to slow traffic by narrowing the road.

The Welcome to Koitiata sign was created and installed in 2000. An extract from KRC minutes of March 2000 show that it was a community project with input from several village residents and erected by RDC.

Mr.R.Coles,  
Roading Engineer  
Rangitikei District Council,  
Private Bag  
Marton.

18th April 1996  
37 Wainui St.  
Turakina Beach  
R.D.11 Wanganui.

Dear Sir,

The Koitiata Beach Committee has instructed me, to contact you to request permission of Council to erect a welcome to Koitiata sign along the road.

In view of this sign being on the side of the road your opinion as to a suitable situation would be appreciated.

I am available anytime at your convenience, my phone number is 3273884.

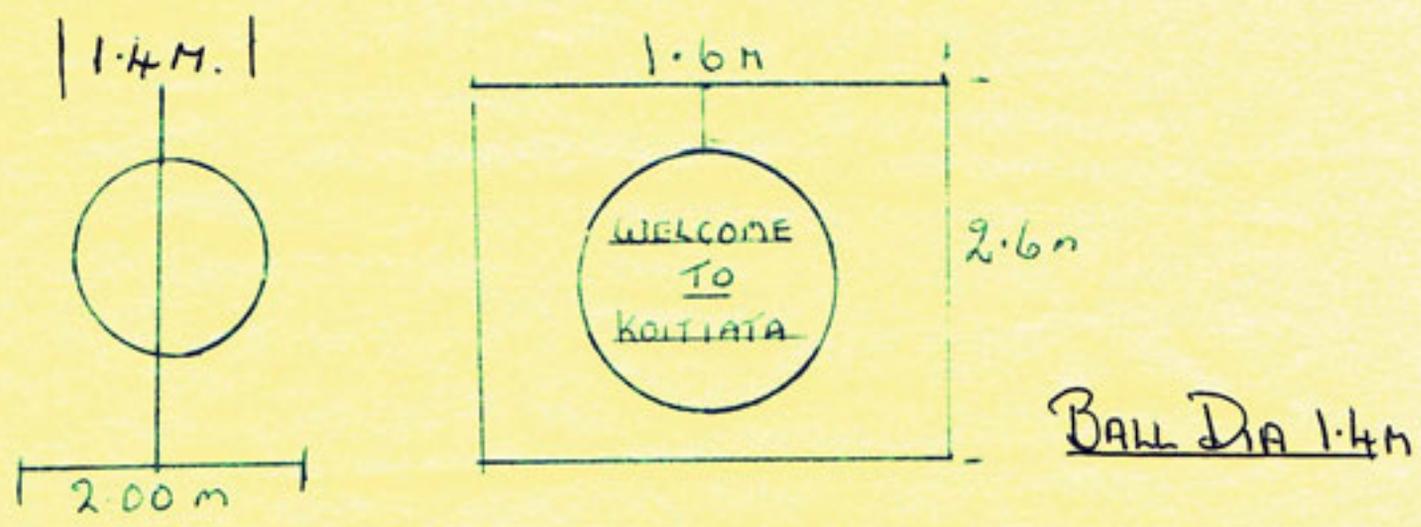
Thanking you in anticipation, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

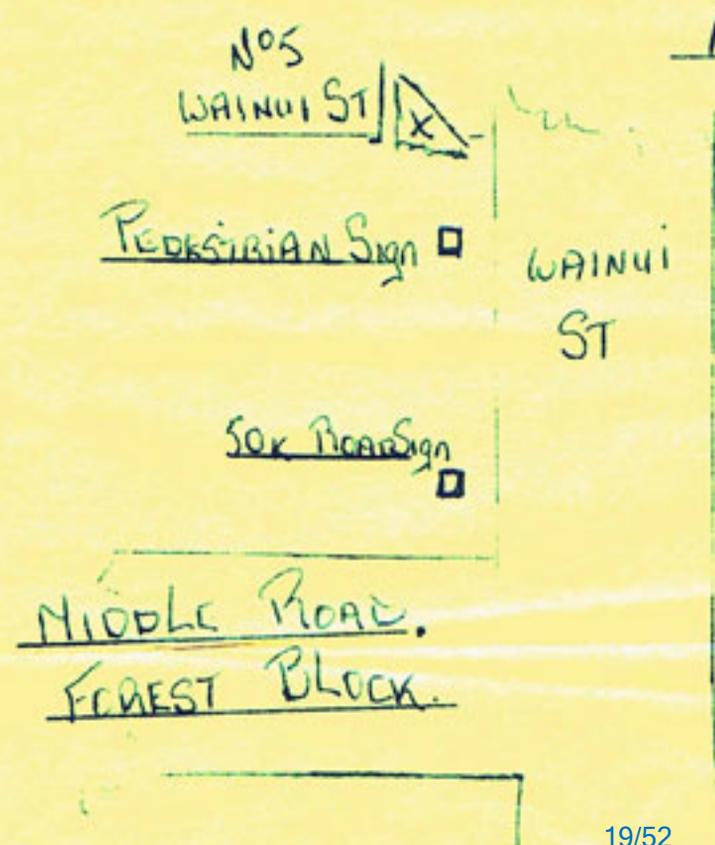
G.Howatson  
Liaison Officer.

ENCLOSURE: KOTIATA "Welcome Sign"

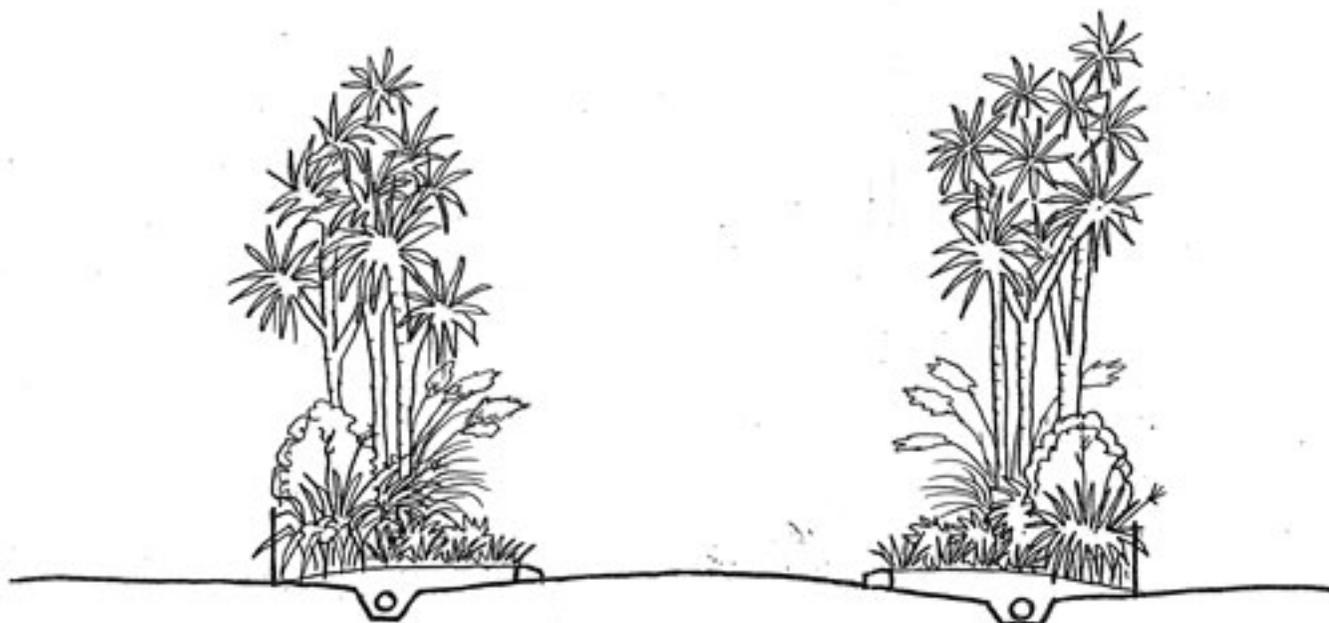
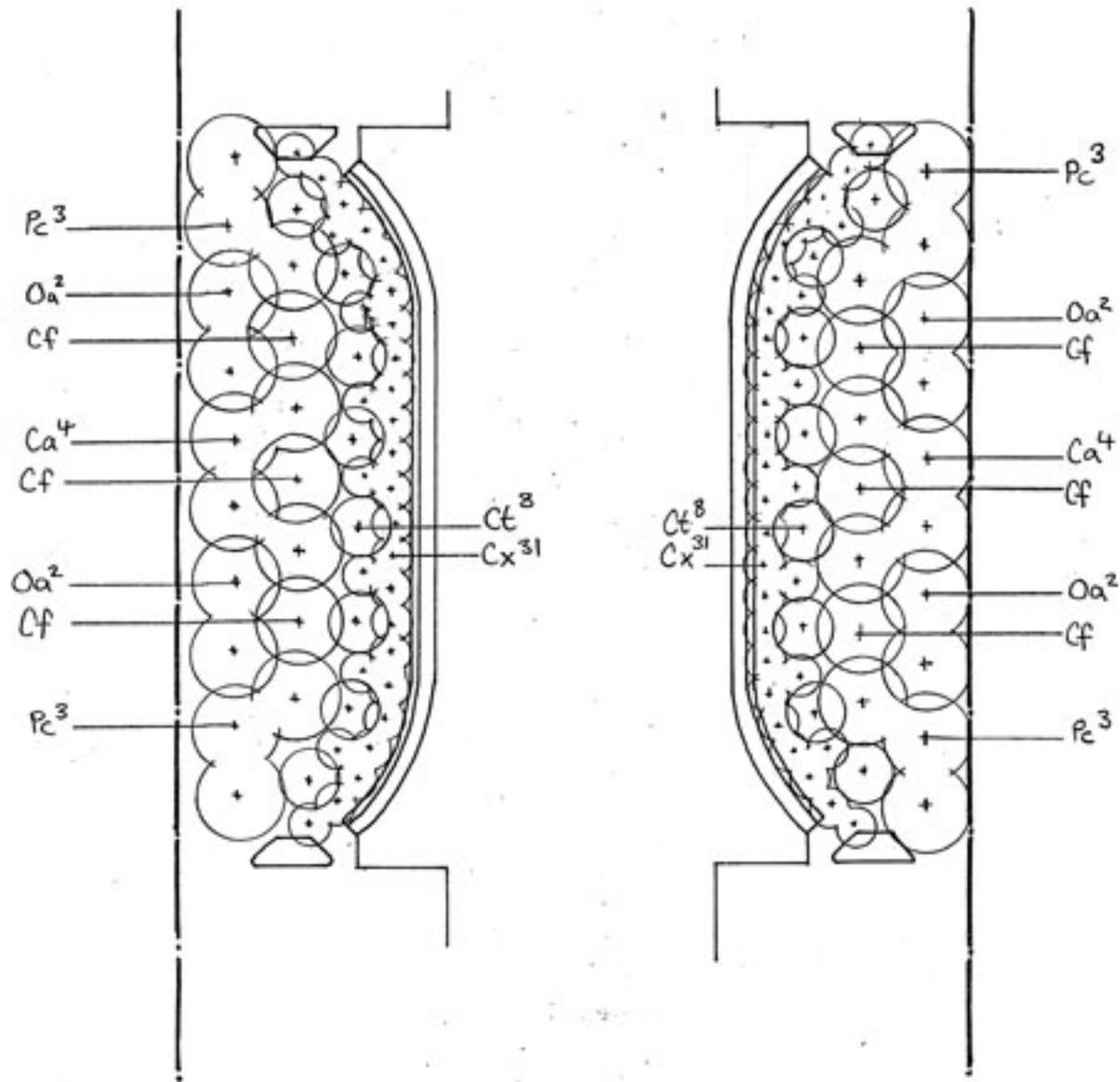
SKETCH ONLY. PROPOSED SIGN



Possible SITE of ABOVE WELCOME Sign.



# KOITIATA THRESHOLD PLANTING



## Plant Schedule

Sheet 1/1

Scale 1:100

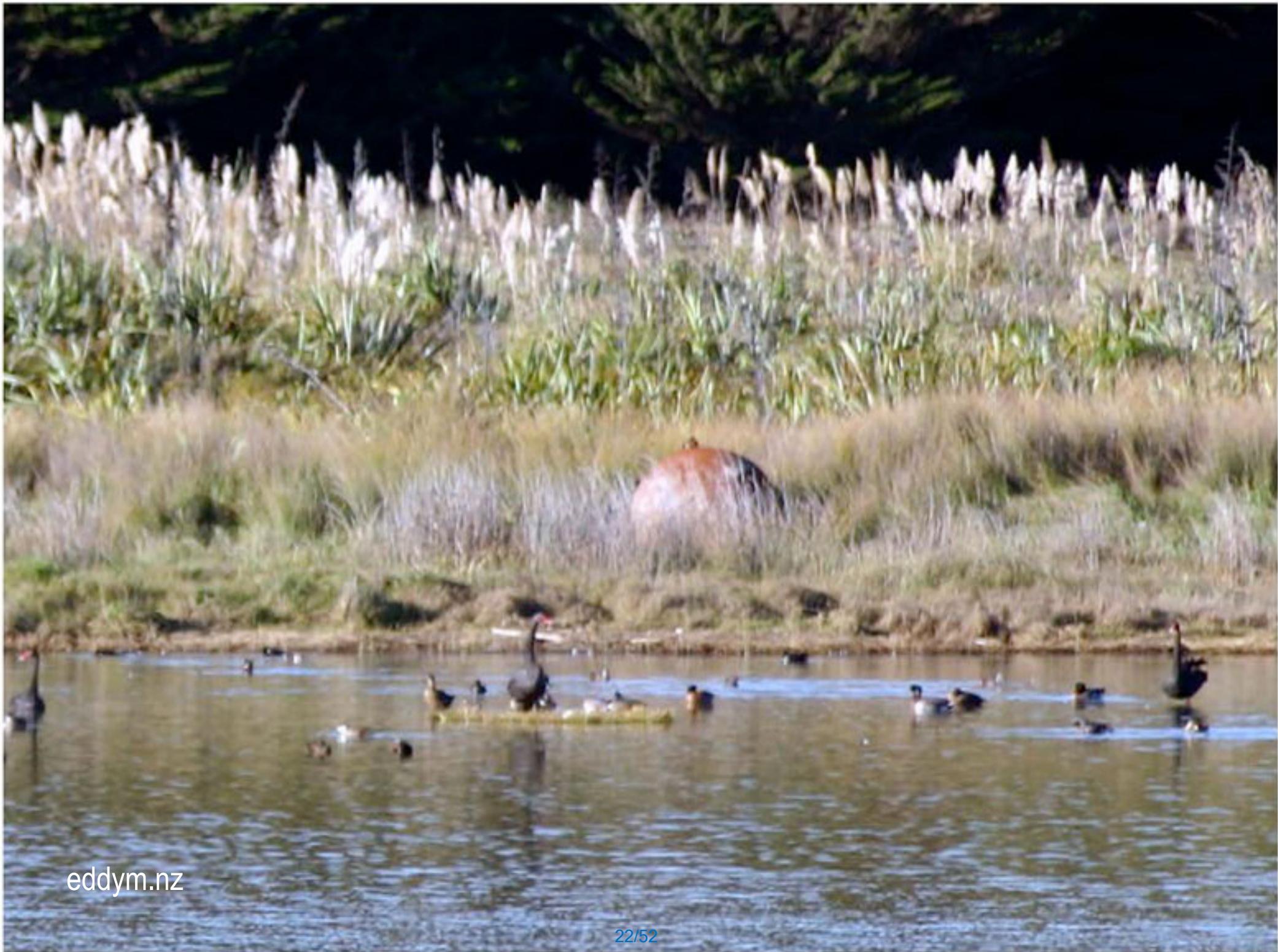
CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	MINIMUM HEIGHT	NUMBER OF PLANTS
Ca	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Cabbage tree	1500mm	8
Cf	<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	Toetoe	400mm	6
Ct	<i>Carex trifida</i>	Carex sp.	300mm	16
Cx	<i>Carex testacea</i>	Carex sp.	300mm	62
Oa	<i>Olearia angulata</i>	Tree Daisy sp.	500mm	8
Pc	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	Coastal flax	500mm	12
TOTAL				112

Design by Tom Abraham . Titchener Monzingo Aitken Ltd. Landscape architects.  
PH/FAX 06 3276248 MARTON

Extract from KRC AGM minutes 26/03/2000

WELCOME TO KOITIATA SIGN, DONATED BY ARNOLD IS AWAITING ERECTION BY RDC. THANKYOU FROM ARNOLD TO TOM DOONEYS' SON FOR GROUTING, HAZEL KUITI FOR PAINTING IN THE LETTERS, JIM MANT FOR TANALISING, PETER FRASER FOR SHAPING THE PIECE OF NORFOLK PINE AND RDC FOR ACCEPTING OUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR A WELCOME SIGN AT THE ENTRANCE TO KOITIATA, AND PLANS FOR SUCH. ARNOLD WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICLY THANK ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TOWARDS THE BUILDING, ANG GROUNDWORK, CARTING SAND, DIGGING, ETC ETC, OF THE WONDERFUL PLAYING AREAS AT THE FRONT OF THE VILLAGE. ALSO TO THE LADIES WHO PROVIDED REFRESHMENTS. NOLA FRASER THEN THANKED ARNOLD FOR HIS DEDICATION AND PERSERVERANCE TOWARDS THESE PROJECTS.





eddym.nz

Where  
Are  
We?

## Where Are We?

The extract below is an item in a 1999 KRC Newsletter that popped out while scanning through the many documents for the Koitiata History project.

It popped out then, because although it did appear that some befuddlement still existed at that time, did anybody really care enough to do a survey?

Well, in fact someone really did. Being the front for the history project, a phone call was received in 2016/17, from an irate (and well lubricated), resident.

The caller spent some time pouring scorn and abuse on all of those who had changed the name of our village from Turakina Beach to Koitiata. Whoever was responsible for that outrage had not even had the decency to consult with the residents.

Ten minutes of full on 'sheep-yard' language later she ran out of breath, and we called it a draw. Just like in the 1999 survey.

# KOITIATA RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

(TURAKINA BEACH)

NEWSLETTER, JUNE 1999.

\*\*\*\*\*

WERE YOU CONTACTED AS PART OF THE RECENT RANDOM POLL, TO SEE IF RESIDENTS CONSIDERED THAT THEY LIVED AT KOITIATA OR TURAKINA BEACH? OF THOSE CONTACTED, THE OUTCOME WAS 50/50. MOST ARE ADAMANT THAT THEIR CHOICE IS THE CORRECT ONE, A QUICK LOOK AT YOUR RATES DEMAND WILL SHOW YOU THAT WE ARE (LIKE IT OR NOT) RESIDENTS OF KOITIATA. BUT USING THE NAME TURAKINA BEACH IS OK. AND IN A LOT OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ONLY WAY SOME PEOPLE KNOW WHERE WE ARE. BUT THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE AREA IS KOITIATA, WITH TURAKINA BEACH BEING THE SEASIDE AREA ACROSS THE RIVER. (WHERE IT USED TO BE)

# Closing Teone Street

## Closing Teone Street

---

Page 27	2001: KRC letter to RDC; What's up. It's a barrier and it has been put up across Teone street.
Page 28	2001: RDC letter to KRC; Oops, it has been removed and we won't do that again.
Page 29-31	2001: KRC & RDC documents; Putting the matter to rest.
Page 32	2003: KRC Minutes; Closure of Teone street has popped up again.
Page 33-34	2003: KRC letter to RDC and RDC response settles that, again.

---

Research for our village's history did not reveal any record of 'Teone Street' being named or officially designated as a street. While it may not be an official street, it does appear on some maps. It is not within the Koitiata township boundaries, being a track in the reserve area, but at some point in time, it was labelled as 'Teone' and that it shall remain.

Even though it is not an official street, it serves as the way to the camping ground entrance, to the public toilets, provides vehicle access to the playground area and it's the bit that joins the village to the beach access causeway. It is reasonably important; so why had so much energy and effort been expended on schemes to close Teone street?

In the first half of 2001 there were great goings-on about Teone street. A barrier was erected, and then it was taken down; very confusing. A series of letters between KRC and RDC serve to illustrate the level of confusion and enlighten us to the street's status. The letters also tell us a few other things, but we will leave that up to you to work out. Conclusion was that Teone street was not being closed.

So that's settled then. But no, it's not. Two years later in 2003 the closure of Teone street comes to the top of the pile again! This time it was via a direct submission to RDC from individual resident(s) but the community's wishes prevailed and the closure request was binned again.

File

**Koitiata residents committee**

Rangitikei District Council  
Private Bag 1102  
MARTON.

Ref: Closure Teone Street.

Dear Sir,

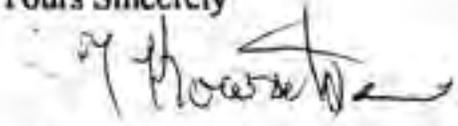
It is with regret that we approach this subject, as normally we have such good communications with council that the need for an explanation of an incident like this would not occur. In the above case however we are left wondering what is happening?

Teone Street has been a topic of discussion on numerous occasions with R.D.C. and ourselves and in recent times has been identified as a non-existent street hence a council decision to spend no more funds maintain that stretch of roadway. This committee had recently met and debated various options pertaining to this area and sent committee member to council with a couple of these leaving the final call in his hands. This resulted in a barrier being installed.

Somewhere along the way, after 10 days approximately, a meeting takes place on a weekend, amongst several residents and including a committee member (against any closure) with a representative of council (still unknown), which reversed the decision effective immediately.

As Chairperson, I feel we now have no options left but to persue this to a point where all costs are fully visible, to include both initial and subsequent tasks, being fully aware that culverts and truckloads of that metal do not come cheap. I would specifically like these costings to the above committee before the Annual General Meeting of the above committee set for March 2001. These in written form please. The matter is of serious concern to us as a committee as we are rendered useless by such actions, and end up doing damage control for both parties. It also sends bad vibes to perspective new committee reps /stalwarts, as elections loom. Some explanation would not go amiss, as to the lack of communication with committee. We look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely



G.T. Howatson  
Chairperson.

13/2/01

Confirmed 21/2/01

received June 18th Jp

9 April 2001

Mr G T Howatson  
32 Wainui Street  
Turakina

Dear Mr Howatson

**Closure Teone Street**

Thank you for your letter on the closure of Teone Street.

The section of reserve known locally as Teone Street is actually part of reserve and is not road.

We are indeed concerned that the right things are being done in Kaitiata and in trying to help the committee we have found that we in fact did the wrong thing in allowing a barrier to be placed in the reserve. As a result, it was later discovered that the barrier was not legal, and had been installed in a position on the reserve and not at the end of the legal road as specified by the Assets Manager. The removal of the barrier was undertaken for legal reasons and not simply on the demand of a few residents.

We believe that it is no longer satisfactory to respond to verbal requests from residents indicating that they represent the resident's committee and we are disappointed that the residents in Kaitiata do not speak with one voice. We are also concerned that we do not get the complete picture when residents ask Council to either undertake work on their behalf or allow work on a reserve.

All works undertaken on roads and within reserves are the responsibility of Council, in this particular case the work was undertaken in conjunction with another project and the costs for the work were quoted to be \$300.00. There is no additional breakdown on grader time or metal costs as these lump sum quotations are fixed, and we do not seek additional information from the contractor.

In due course and with your concurrence, we intend to change the name of Teone Street to Teone Reserve. The area is maintained under the Reserves budget rather than a road budget. In making this subtle change we are conscious of the safety of users of the reserve and play ground and the legal responsibilities of those using vehicles on the reserve. For a number of reasons it will assist the residents fronting onto the reserve for vehicle accessing the reserve to use the "such and such" street entry rather than traveling between the playground and the houses.

Peter Duncan  
Asset Manager

**Matters arising:** General discussion about the letter from RDC (20.6) which stated that Teone Street was mistakenly designated a street and therefore the barrier erected was illegal and this was the reason for its removal. Council proposed that "in due course and with village concurrence" the whole area be designated the 'Teone Reserve' (This area is currently funded through the reserves fund, not the road fund).

**Proposed:** That the committee write to RDC to state our concurrence with this proposal and this correspondence also asks permission to upgrade the reserve by slightly extending the mowed area to increase visitor parking, the planting of further pohutukawa trees and adding a petanque pitch (all at our own expense).

**Moved:** T. Dooney **Seconded** G. Laing. **Passed Unanimously**

A  
From Kaitiata Residents' Committee  
- Meeting Minutes - June 20th 2001

**KOITIATA RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE  
(TURAKINA BEACH)**

25.06.01

Peter W. Smith  
50 Rapaki Street  
Koitiata  
Ph: 06-327-3883

Chief Executive Officer  
Rangitikei District Council

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed the minutes of our latest meeting 20.05.01. As you will note under general business there are a couple of matters we wish to discuss. As we are informed that these matters, though related, will be dealt with by separate departments I have put the second on a separate page

We would like to thank you for your response concerning the Teone 'reserve' and state our concurrence that the re-designation of this area is timely.

We are trusting that there would be no objection to us installing a petanque pitch with some associated seating and planting of pohutukawa trees for shelter, shade and beauty (see diagram).

We would also like to extend the mown area slightly to accommodate increased visitor parking (see diagram). It should be noted that the proposed petanque pitch does not impinge on are current parking. We plan to do all this work ourselves at our own expense(although we would not object to a donation of trees).

As we are hoping to work on this project in the near future we would be grateful for early notification if there is any objection to this work.

Since the last meeting we have received your response to our submissions to the draft annual plan. I am sure you are not expecting our effusive endorsement but we do thank you for supplying us with rubbish bags, undertaking to get an engineers report on the flooding on the Teone Reserve (perhaps it would good to do this sooner rather than later – after a rainy spell?), and to look into slowing traffic in Wainui St..

Yours truly,



Peter W. Smith      Chair, Koitiata Residents Committee

6 July 2001

Co2/3

Mr P Smith  
Koitiata Residents Committee  
50 Rapakai Street  
Koitiata

Dear Peter

I refer to your letter dated 25 June 2001 to Mr David Christison Chief Executive Officer, Rangitikei District Council regarding the planting of Pohutukawa trees for shelter, shade and beauty and designating the area adjacent to Teone Street as "Teone Reserve".

### **Community Development**

The land on which the community development will take place is Department of Conservation Reserve and extends from Teone Street to the sea, and includes the area on which the barbecues, and swings are presently located.

Council does not have authority therefore to give approval for the development, and that authority can only be obtained from the Department of Conservation. You should send your proposal to Mr Dave Smith, Manager Department of Conservation Palmerston North Area, P O Box 11010, Palmerston North. They may for example have an opinion on the type of trees that can be planted on the reserve.

Councils concern would be the effect such trees could have on actual or potential utilities services (water, sewer, stormwater, power and telephone). The Chief Executive Officer alluded to this in his letter to you dated 4 July 2001.

### **Teone Street Reserve**

Assuming that the Department of Conservation approves the community development. Then I do not have a problem with the area on which the development will be located being called locally "Teone Reserve".

If there is anything else I can help you with please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Yours sincerely

Barry Mortimer  
Community Facilities Manager

**General Business:** (visitors invited to speak)

1. There was a general discussion about the closure of the road (Teone Street) at the south-west exit from the village.

Bob Major clarified the situation that the Rangitikei District Council had received only one individual submission about this matter and there had been no mention of it in the submissions to the Annual Draft Plan from the Koitiata Residents Committee.

Bob also clarified the situation – that Council had the authority to close the road but not the responsibility to maintain it. At present Council would be unlikely to respond favourably to any request for funds to maintain the road.

Several residents spoke against the closure of the road. Reasons given were access to rear entrances of property, access for fire vehicles and recreational access.

Two residents stated that traffic moved through the area with too much noise and speed. There was a discussion about signage to deter this.

There was general agreement that in the short term there should be an ad hoc working party to carry out emergency maintenance on the road, and in the long term a source of income or materials for maintenance should be looked into.

Bob Major reminded us that a resolution speaking against the road closure was necessary to stop council action.

*Motion – that a letter should be sent to the RDC stating that the community were opposed to the road closure*

*Moved – Joyce Smith Seconded Pam Rhodes - passed unanimously*

2. There was a discussion on recreational facilities for older children. Neville Cosgrove tabled a plan for a concrete wall for squash-type ball games, and Tom Dooney suggested a BMX track. It was decided to discuss these ventures further before taking any further action.

3. Peter Hawes asked about the status of the area known as the domain. Bob Major clarified that this land is not specifically designated as recreational and in theory it could be sold. He advised that the best way to preserve it for recreational purposes was to use it as such. Joyce Smith pointed out that the Committee were still waiting for a reply from Council to the submission requesting permission to level the area for sporting activities.

4. Pam Rhodes expressed concern that the lawn had not been mowed outside her house and Tom Dooney agreed to tell the new contractor that he should include that area.

5. There was some concern about an apparently abandoned vehicle on a property in Rapaki Street, but as it is not in the street itself, there is little the Committee or Council can do at present.

**KOITIATA RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE**  
**(TURAKINA BEACH)**

The Mayor, Councillors  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rangitikei District Council  
PB MARTON

17/07/2003

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been instructed to write on behalf of the residents of Koitiata with regard to the beach front area known as Teone Street.

Residents are opposed to the closure of this roadway and to the erection of any barriers across it. Reasons for this include access to rear entries of property, access for emergency vehicles and recreational access.

The Koitiata community hopes to work with Council to find a way to keep this area maintained for vehicle access.

Thankyou



Joyce Smith (Secretary)  
50 Rapaki Street  
Koitiata  
RD11  
WANGANUI  
Ph 06 327 3883  
Email [joyce@wordsmith.co.nz](mailto:joyce@wordsmith.co.nz)

Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Private Bag 1102, Marton  
Telephone (06) 327 8174  
Facsimile (06) 327 6970

**Rangitikei**  
UNSPOILT...



11 August 2003

File No. MA 3/1

Joyce Smith  
Koitiata Residents' Committee  
C/o 50 Rapaki Street  
RD 11  
Wanganui

Dear Joyce

**Subject: Access off Teone Street**

Thank you for your recent letter re the above.

I am pleased to advise that, in view of the concerns set out in your letter, the Council will take no action to deny access to the "roadway" (which, as I understand it is simply an access track across an area of reserve) concerned.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

David Christison  
Chief Executive Officer

# Lagoon Bridge

## Lagoon Bridge

---

Page 37-38	2004: KRC submission to RDC re beach access
Page 39-41	2005: Survey of residents and results
Page 42-43	2006: RDC plans for the bridge
Page 44-45	2006: Extract from KRC minutes and letter to RDC

---

The 2001 ford project didn't intend to provide a dry access pathway to the beach. After all, it was a ford. Back in those days the lagoon also stretched to the north, and except in the height of summer, there was usually a depth of water in the crossing.

The ford was a vast improvement on beach access, but the difficulty for pedestrians was an issue. Getting to the beach was not only an activity for Koitiata residents, but also for an increasing number of visitors. And then the 2004 flood came and made getting to the beach a difficulty whether walking, riding, or driving.

In 2004 a submission was made to RDC seeking help in the restoration and maintenance of the beach crossing. The appropriate authorities got together and came up with four options for beach access improvement, two of the options including a pedestrian bridge.

A community survey was conducted in October 2005 and the options which included the 'wooden-floating-walkway-bridge' found favour with residents. This was communicated to RDC, and they undertook to arrange a resource consent and get the design stuff done. And then hey presto, a 2-metre module of the wooden bridge arrived for display at Market Day in October 2006.

It looked impressive, but issues remained; who was going to pay for it (Rangitikei or Koitiata ratepayers?), and who would maintain it, (including recovery if it washed away)?

These issues were never resolved, but it didn't matter because mother nature stepped up again and provided a solution. Eventually the top end of the lagoon filled up with sand and dried out and the ford disappeared.

Extract from KRC Submission to RDC, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2004;

*Topic:* Loss of access to beach and flood potential since 2004 flood.

*What we want Council to do:* Urgent meeting of concerned parties and action.

Background:

The domain at Turakina Beach and the settlement of Koitiata were established in the 1930s as a seaside resort for the people of Rangitikei. Since that time, recreational use and settlement of the area have steadily increased. There are currently over 100 permanent residents in Koitiata, a population which doubles most weekends and trebles at peak holiday times. The last few years have also brought many day visitors to the area and the camp site has a steady year-round occupancy. Residents and visitors enjoy boating, birdwatching, fishing and especially white baiting.

For many years until 1998, the river flowed past Koitiata to its mouth 2-3 Kms south of the village. Access to the beach across the river was an easy paddle in the summer and a boat trip in the winter. In 1998, the Turakina burst back through its previous mouth two Kms north of the village, leaving the lower reaches of the river as a lagoon. For the next two years, individuals in motor vehicles and on foot crossed the wetland to the beach in many different places. As a result, the area became more swamp like and the beach became even less accessible. Vehicles and pedestrians were destroying the paths and the lagoon bed and endangering the wildlife. Koitiata residents were constantly being bothered by visitors requesting assistance to retrieve stranded vehicles. The southern track out of the village via Rapaki Street became degraded and some individuals laid unsightly rubble on the lagoon bed.

In consultation with RDC, Horizons and DOC, and with financial assistance from local organisations, a group of local volunteers and friends constructed a ford in September 2001. This had the immediate and lasting effect of channelling all traffic to the beach through the one access point. As a result, the wetland and dunes were able to recover and a range of native and migratory birds returned to the area. There was a significant increase in casual visitors to the beach. Virtually all property on the market was sold and house prices rose. The ford was successfully monitored and maintained by a volunteer two-man sub-committee.

Current Situation:

During the flood of Feb 2004, the Turakina burst through the lagoon to its former mouth while continuing to flow through its current one. This prevented the village from flooding.

Since the February flood a new situation has developed. Landslips have occurred on the property of Mr Bob Major along the old river bed between the river and the lagoon, and water cannot run off in that direction. The effect has been to deepen the water at the northern end of the lagoon, including the ford area. Flooding in the village as a result of heavy rain fall is now a possibility, because the water might not be able to flow away to the north.

The ford which has served well since Sep 2001 is now too deep for use even for All Terrain Vehicles.

Ease of access to the beach is now required for the same reasons which existed in 2001.

It is required to prevent individuals driving vehicles and walking all over the area, destroying existing paths and shallows and threatening wildlife.

Access is required for search and rescue. As we all know, over the last few years there has been an increase in foolhardy behaviour on the New Zealand coast. Individuals who do not know this coast could become injured or drowned.

Without ease of access, residents of Koitiata are constantly requested to assist visitors whose vehicles have become stranded.

It is required for wildlife rescue. There is always the possibility of a whale stranding or oil slick.

The beach is a constant fire hazard. Driftwood extends right into the forest south of the lagoon. Access to the north of this area is required for firefighting.

The permanent and weekend population of Koitiata has increased in the last few years and property values have increased. This was due largely to the success of the 2001 ford. Without this access, the population and quality of the area may decline again.

We are also concerned about the effect of the coming whitebait season. White baiting is a passionate pastime in this region. In the past Mr Major has been extremely generous regarding access to the beach and river for white baiters. However, the flood has had a devastating effect on his private roading, and access to the river across his paddocks is now very precarious. It is impassable even to 4WD vehicles and is even hazardous to pedestrians who are not fit and wearing appropriate footwear. Understandably, Mr Major is not prepared to accept responsibility for injury to persons or vehicles on his unstable terrain and he will be closing his gates for at least the 2004 whitebait season. We are concerned that some individuals, especially those who have been using this means of access for many years, might **take it upon themselves to trespass on Mr Major's land**, a situation which will need policing and could lead to ill feeling in the community.

### In summary

The Turakina River changes course continuously and we cannot prevent that. However, we do have to live with the changes and manage the consequences

Channelled access to Turakina Beach should be re-established if possible for the following reasons:

- individual multi-pathways are destroying the environment and threatening wildlife
- Koitiata residents are constantly requested to rescue stranded vehicles
- foolhardy individuals are likely to be drowned or injured
- necessary for search and rescue
- necessary for wildlife rescue - eg stranded whales, oil slicks
- necessary for fire firefighting
- keeping trespassers off private property
- maintenance of property values
- more urgent from now on, due to increased number of permanent residents, weekenders and visitors
- **Council's commitment to population growth**
- **Council's commitment to tourism**

The volunteers who constructed the ford in 2001 and are available for working bees as before.

Until safe and easy access is re-established, notices must be erected warning visitors of the hazards of this area.

**Turakina Beach Access**  
**Results of Koitiata Household Survey – October 2005**

Access to Turakina Beach via a ford has been a matter for discussion for many years. Sound arguments for and against improving access to the beach have been made and technical problems and costs have been considered. These can be summarised as follows:

**The Current Problem:**

- Difficulty of access for pedestrians (particularly the elderly, infirmed, parents with babies, and children).
- Depth of the water (and temperature for walkers), in the winter months.
- Need of constant maintenance by residents.

**Disadvantages of Upgrading:**

- Further erosion of the dunes and the destruction of dune building plants with increased traffic (particularly the ‘hoon’ element), speeding on the beach.
- Increase in rates to fund upgrade.
- Possibility of an expensive structure being washed away in a flood.
- Need to gain Resource Consent.

Recent meetings between representatives of the Department of Conservation, Horizons, Rangitikei District Council and the residents of Koitiata resulted in an agreement to proceed as follows:

1. DOC, Horizons and RDC draw up a list of possible options with costs and benefits. This resulted in the four options as follows:

- 1 THE FORD STAYS AS IT IS.**  
(Difficult for pedestrians, least expensive, minimises ‘hoon’ traffic, problem of ongoing maintenance by volunteers)
- 2 UPGRADE TO ALL SEASON VEHICLE ACCESS.**  
(The most expensive option, may be washed away with flooding, free access for ‘hoon’ traffic, difficulty gaining consent, easy access for pedestrians, who would maintain it?)
- 3 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS VIA A FOOT BRIDGE LEAVING THE FORD AS IT IS**  
(Allows pedestrian access, minimises ‘hoon’ traffic, consent possible, may be washed away with flooding, will require ongoing maintenance. )
- 4 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS WITH A FOOT BRIDGE AND UPGRADE OF FORD TO MAKE IT MORE PERMANENT.**  
(As for (3) with professional rather than volunteer maintenance)

In the third week of October 2005, the households of Kaitiata were surveyed with these four options, and the results were as follows:

Approximately **80** survey forms were distributed - **54** were returned

**OPTION 1**

The ford stays as it is **16 votes (30%)**

**OPTION 2**

Upgrade to all season vehicle access **1 vote (2%)**

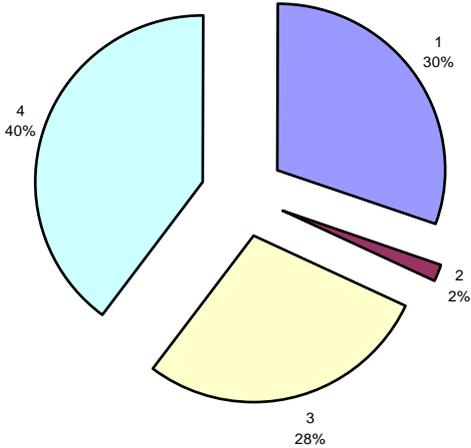
**OPTION 3**

Pedestrian access via footbridge leaving ford as it is **15 votes (28%)**

**OPTION 4**

Pedestrian access via footbridge with some upgrading ford **21 votes (40%)**

One form was returned without voting



Shown as a pie chart with percentages

# Summary of Comments

(A tick indicates a further comment in same vein)

## **OPTION 1 - Stay as it is - (15 votes):**

- Hate the idea of any improvement
- Need to protect fauna and flora
- Will increase property values = increase rates
- Open villagers to speculators, wealthy Aucklanders & Americans
- Don't want pubs, cafes and shops
- Improvements may be washed away and waste money ✓
- Loss of village identity
- The whole situation is very negative
- More members of the community need to help with working bees – especially high/heavy users.

## **OPTION 2 - All Season access: (1 vote):**

- We cannot allow the hoons to dictate our lifestyle. They will find their way onto the beach despite all we do.

## **OPTION 3 - Pedestrian Footbridge (both options= 36 votes):**

- Need for high standard of construction
- Need to allow access for prams/pushchairs ✓✓
- Need to prevent vehicle/motorcycle/hoon access on footbridge ✓✓✓
- Increase in rates for building ✓

## **General:**

- Dry access will naturally occur in the near future
- Hoon traffic is relative – it was worse 20 years ago
- Need for beach maintenance/protection no matter what happens
- Money might be available from Lotto, Central Region Trust
- What about a small platform with a handrail to pull both ways?
- Suggest stepping-stones ✓

## **Where to from here?**

Now that the local residents have had their say, the discussion is to be opened up to the public at large. A public meeting, probably in Marton, will be called soon.





CLIENT: RANSITKEI DC

JOB No: 5119553

SHEET: 51 of

JOB: LOT 101A WALKWAY

CALCS BY: A.M. CHESTNUT

DATE: 25-4-06

SUBJECT:

CHECKED BY:

DATE:

APPROX LENGTH OF RISING CROSS-FLOW

TIMBER POLE

FLOW

WEAK LINK IN CABLE

TIMBER POLE

1700

60000

TIE STAINLESS ROPE TO POLE

PLAN 1:500

LINK 1ST NO. UNITS WITH 10mm STAINLESS ROPE.

AT WEAK LINKS AT MID LENGTH JOIN A

200mm LENGTH OF 8mm STAINLESS ROPE

IN CASE OF FLOOD, WALKWAY WILL BREAK

AT WEAK UNITS AND SWING OPEN

WHEN THIS HAPPENS - TO RE-CREATE, PICK UP

EACH UNIT WITH AN EXCAVATOR AND

PUT BACK IN PLACE - (RE-THREAD

STAINLESS ROPES)

Extract from KRC minutes of meeting held May 7<sup>th</sup> 2006;

### **Funding of the causeway and ford access to the beach.**

Ron Voss presented a brief history of the development of the causeway and ford. He noted that all the development and maintenance costs have so far been met by residents' voluntary labour, donated machinery and materials and fundraising by the Koitiata residents.

As more and more visitors and tourists come to Koitiata, lured by easy access to the beach, residents feel that the RDC should cover the on-going maintenance costs of up-keeping the causeway and ford, which are estimated at \$500 per annum. Volunteer labour would continue to be provided by Koitiata residents. Residents have unsuccessfully sought financial assistance from the RDC twice before.

Councillor Jill Strugnell replied. She explained that in response to a survey of Koitiata residents conducted last year, \$61,000 has been allocated in the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan (DLTCCP) to building a permanent causeway and ford crossing for Koitiata. She pointed out that residents had to understand that this new funding would be generated through rates increases.

She suggested that the Residents' Committee use the DLTCCP Submission process to express their short term and long term funding needs.

Peter Fraser noted that the Council would need to consult with Horizons, DOC, land transport and iwi before any decision was made on allocation of funds for a permanent structure. He added that it was unlikely that DOC would agree, given the expectation that the lagoon will dry up within the next five years.

### **Motion.**

That if the Council ever did allocate the \$61,000 for the construction of a permanent causeway and crossing, that the cost would be levied across all Rangitikei District ratepayers, and that the sub-committee prepare a separate submission to this effect.

# Koitiata Residents' Committee

3 November 2006

35 Wainui Street  
Koitiata  
Turakina Beach  
RD 11  
**WANGANUI**  
**Ph: 06 327 3755**  
**Email: peter.hawes@xtra.co.nz**

Mr Barry Strichen  
The Rangitikei District Council  
Private Bag 1102  
**MARTON**

Dear Barry

## **Re: Footbridge for Koitiata Beach Access**

Thank you for delivering the pictorial impressions and a module of the proposed footbridge for Koitiata Beach. Residents' reactions have been very positive and we are most grateful that Council has responded to our request for bridge access to the beach so favourably.

At our recent residents' committee meeting three observations were made in respect of the footbridge. First, residents have repeatedly stipulated that they accept the offer of the bridge only if the cost and on-going maintenance costs of the bridge are met by the entire Rangitikei region, not just Koitiata residents. So far we have not had confirmation that this is the case. Secondly, should the project go ahead, it would then make sense for the RDC to take over the responsibility of maintaining the causeway access to the bridge and the residents' committee would therefore forfeit the \$500 annual grant, currently received for this purpose. Finally, we would need to nominate a resident from the village to liaise with you on bridge management issues.

We realise that Council has not yet obtained the necessary consents to proceed with the project, and before doing so, we ask that you take these three points into consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards

Liz Hawes  
Secretary

# Rapaki Street Signs

## Rapaki Street Signs

---

Page 48      2006: Letter from KRC to RDC regarding signs spelling 'problem'.

---

Rapaki street only ever had one street sign, pointing to the northern end. Traffic looking for a Rapaki street property usually turned up that way, even when trying to locate a property in the southern end of the street.

A request was made to RDC in 2005 and this resulted in an additional sign being erected, pointing south. Great ... except, nothing should be simple if it can be made complex. The new sign pointing to Rapaki street south was spelt incorrectly as '*Rapakai*.'

This was brought to the attention of RDC who duly passed this to the Department of Signs and eventually another sign was erected. There was now one pointing north and the other to the southern end.

But ... the problem now was that the new sign was also spelt as '*Rapakai*,' to match the first incorrectly spelt sign. So now there were two signs, both with incorrect spelling.

So back to the Department of Signs with red faces all round. Eventually both signs were replaced, both with the correct spelling of Rapaki.

And this tale may even provide a clue as to the correct pronunciation of Rapaki.



20 April 2006

35 Wainui Street  
Koitiata  
Turakina Beach  
RD 11  
**WANGANUI**

The Rangitikei District Council  
Private Bag 1102  
**MARTON**

To whom it may concern: Koitiata Street signs

Some time last year it was brought to the attention of the Council that one of the Koitiata street signs was spelt incorrectly. The street in question is 'Rapaki' street. On one side of the road it was spelt incorrectly as 'Rapakai' and on the other it was spelt correctly.

The Koitiata Residents' Committee requested that the incorrect sign be replaced. Unfortunately, the correct sign was replaced, and we now have two incorrectly spelt signs for 'Rapaki' street. Both read 'Rapakai' street.

The Residents' Committee again requests that both incorrectly spelt signs be removed and replaced with signs reading 'Rapaki' street.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards

Liz Hawes  
**SECRETARY**

# Doing The Broadband Internet

## Doing The Broadband Internet

---

Page 51      2010: Photo of first provider's team installing pole, on hill closest to Beach Road.

2011: Photo of Inspire.Net team installing pole, existing location

---

Page 52      2011: News clipping, Broadband gets to 'edge of the planet'.

---

Access to the internet in Koitiata from 1996-2010 was via the copper land-line phone system. It was a dial-up service provided by Xtra, (*a brand of Telecom who are now Spark*). By today's standards it was dead slow, but we had no other choice. And it was also subject to interference from electric fences along Beach road!

Broadband was becoming the standard but being a "hardly-on-the-map" sort of place, it was not on Koitiata's horizon. As quoted previously, "*Telecom didn't have plans, and didn't have plans to make plans*". It was apparent that if we wanted to get up-to-date internet technology into our village we were on our own. It was another do-it-yourself community project.

Developments with Wi-Fi technology provided a potential solution. We were also fortunate to have a couple of conveniently located hills overlooking the village, and generously made available by Bob Major.

After a search for a possible and willing provider, (*and with financial input from the community*) a Wi-Fi broadband system was installed. In mid-2010 Koitiata had a broadband internet connection to the world. Unfortunately, while possible and willing the first provider didn't come up to scratch on the 'being-capable-scale'.

That initial service was very unreliable and frustration lead to plan 'B' being initiated in early 2011. The renewed search for a provider resulted in an agreement with Inspire.Net and they installed their Wi-Fi internet system in mid-2011. Their service has qualified as more than just being 'capable' and the system has since been upgraded to provide world class streaming standards and an internet phone system.



Above: 2010 Start of installing tower for first system.

Below: 2011 Inspire.Net team installing their tower for current service.



## Broadband gets to 'edge of the planet'

# Do-it-yourself works



Rural residents sick of waiting for the Government to get them broadband are taking matters into their own hands.

Eddy Mason, a resident of Koitiata, a small coastal settlement about 10km west of Turakina, said he took it upon himself to get his village broadband access after Telecom failed to get involved. "Telecom didn't have plans, and didn't have plans to make plans," Mr Mason said.

The retired broadband advocate said nothing was happening, so he started to ask questions. When that didn't work, he went ahead and organised for a repeater tower to be put up on the top of a hill so the whole village would have access to fast internet.

"It's just the way it's meant to be," he said.

A first attempt had failed because the tower was not high enough for clear reception, so he moved to "plan B or C".

Internet service provider Inspire Net agreed to install a tower on a farm in the area, saying it would cover the costs of erecting the repeater if 10 homes would sign up to the broadband service.

Koitiata has now had broadband internet delivered to 22 homes for the past three months. Mr Mason said what he had organised could be done in any community.

"You just need a hill."

Residents paid a standard installation fee and Inspire Net's standard data rates for download speed of about two megabytes per second.

The village, which Mr Mason described as "on the edge of the planet", had a "broadband barbecue" to celebrate.

"It's lucky it all worked out or I would've been run out of town."