

# OKAIAHAU

Our People    Our Place

*to tātou iwi    to tātou wāhi*

Okaihau Community Development Plan (2021)



The Okaihau Community Association has prioritised the following goals as being of particular importance:

- Speed humps/traffic calming work on Settlers Way – we have two schools, with over 600 students attending. Their safety is paramount, along with that of the rest of the community.
- Solar power on the Hall – this will greatly assist with reducing costs for one of our prime community assets.
- Toilet & Kitchen upgrades for the Hall – it is important we have improved facilities which allow proper disability access and compliance with current Health & Safety requirements.

These priorities in no way reduce the importance of the other goals & visions detailed in this document.

Read this plan carefully.

With our growing community we require council support to complete each of our visions and goals, enhancing and maintaining our community facilities.



# Our Town: *Okaihau*

## Vision for our town:

*Okaihau is an attractive, rural town that serves and supports a diverse and thriving community of friendly, cooperative people.*

### Areas of Focus

	Area of focus	Vision
1	Beautiful Okaihau	Beautiful, thriving, rural Okaihau
2	Leisure and Recreation	Attractive and healthy for recreation and leisure
3	Transport and Safety	Okaihau is part of a safe and efficient transport network
4	Commerce	Progressive and thriving commercial practices
5	Youth	Children and youth are an important and integral part of our community
6	Lifestyle	Okaihau provides a vibrant and peaceful community lifestyle
7	Culture and Heritage	Okaihau values and promotes its diverse and unique culture and heritage
8	Community Safety	Okaihau provides a safe and caring community environment.





## Focus Area: Beautiful Okaihau

**Vision Statement:** Beautiful, thriving, rural Okaihau.

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Plantings and protection	Planting native trees and other appropriate plants  Encourage pest control/environmental protection group formation – e.g. Landcare, Forest & Bird etc)	Okaihau school grows seedlings Lions + other volunteers and supporters plant FNDC support with finance.  Landcare/Forest & Bird or other environmental groups provide support to setup our own environmental group	Schools Lions Cycleway Trust FNDC NRC DoC Forest & Bird/Landcare etc	Ongoing  Long-Term
Car Parking	Pave the area between the Okaihau Hotel and the Dairy (and landscape the area), it is an important cyclist park area.	Negotiate with Hotel, Dairy, Transit, FNDC, WCB and OCA.	FNDC, Transit, OCA, Dairy and Hotel. Cycleway Trust	Ongoing  Long-term
<b>Okaihau Community Hall</b>	<b>Install Solar-power.</b> <b>Upgrade Kitchen and Toilet areas.</b> Open up Northwest face with double doors and decking.	Community, Community Board and Council partnering for funding, design and building	FNDC, KHCB & OCA	<b>Short-Term</b> <b>Short-term</b>  Long-term
Town Signage	Improve signage for town facilities – water fountain, playground etc	OCA request	Cycleway Trust, KHCB, FNDC, Schools, Lions	Ongoing Medium-Term
Western Memorial Gates	Plantings and walkways	Encourage youth to take it on as a project	Schools, Community	Short-term
Public Toilets	Paint the toilets to improve the visual aspect. Improve the facilities for cyclists and events.	Lions & college to co-ordinate  FNDC	Lions, College  FNDC	Short-Term  Long-term

## Focus Area: Leisure and Recreation

**Vision Statement:** Okaihau provides adequate facilities for a wide range of safe and healthy recreation and leisure activities

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Walkway on Okaihau Ridge	Continue the development of the walking path with historical and directional signage and facilities. Provide signs for appropriate cemetery protocol.	Metal the path, erect signs (facilities, historical) and build rest stations.	OCA, FNDC, Sport Northland, Rintouls, Cycleway Trust	3 stages  Short - Long Term
Extend through to Cooks Road	Extend the walkway further along the ridge.			
Cycle Trail	Continue to support the Cycleway Trust in every possible way	Other project sin the plan will support the cycleway – such as signage, planting etc	OCA, FNDC, Cycleway Trust	Ongoing
Develop and maintain Sports clubs and facilities	Encourage the sport of tennis. Push Basketball and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hoop Explore development of a skateboarding facility Provide facilities for netball groups to practice at night. Encourage cricket	Source tennis workshops. Install lighting to allow use of the tennis courts for night netball practise/ night tennis. Provide a cricket bowling area	Okaihau community Basketball Fedn. Tennis Northland Inc Rugby for Life, Okaihau Rugby Club	Short-Term
Open the School pool for wider community use	Encourage wider community use of pools by provision of lifeguards during public hours	Provision of Life Guards	FNDC College Okaihau Combined Swimming Pools committee	Medium-Term
Encourage events	Encourage events which involve the community and local facilities	Touch rugby, League and others Ensure we are the forum and can promote ideas outwards.	Community groups and individuals	Ongoing



## Focus Area: Transport and Safety

**Vision Statement:** Okaihau is part of a safe and efficient transport network

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Main street judder bars and traffic calming mechanisms	Construction of judder bars at western and eastern ends of Settlers Way ie. Bowling Club and Old Post Office. School pedestrian crossing raised	Negotiation with FNDC and Roothing Contractors  Request incorporation into the Long-Term Plan	FNDC, Community Board, Roothing Contractors, OCA, School bus companies, Trucking companies (eg Okaihau Transport), Schools, Northland Transport alliance	Urgent
Road Curbing and Channeling	Curb and channel Lawn and Nova Streets. Seal, curb and channel Old Valley Road. Remodel entry/exit from Old Valley Rd onto SH1	FNDC	FNDC NZTA	Long-Term
Improved road maintenance	Appropriate and timely maintenance to surfaces on all feeder roads and water tables and signage - especially Forest Pools Road.	Submissions to NZTA, DoC & FNDC	FNDC, DoC, NZTA, OCA	Medium Term
Speed restriction on Lake Road, and Forest Pools rd.	50k/h speed restriction on Lake Road between Settlers Way and end of seal, plus on Forest Pools Road. "Children" signage as appropriate	Request for safer speed signage	FNDC, NZTA, OCA	Medium Term
Footpath or walkway	Create a footpath or walkway from the hotel to approx. 1km along Waiare Road SH1 speed restriction to include Waiere Rd intersection.	Design and construction with FNDC  Request to groups to look at this.	FNDC and OCA NZTA NTA	Short-Term
Fuel and electric charging	Encourage the provision of a smart-charging facility in the village for cars and cycles. Encourage establishment of a fuel centre in the village	Request to council.  Encourage local businesses to develop facilities.	FNDC Local property owners	Short-Term

## Focus Area: Commerce

**Vision Statement:** Progressive and thriving commercial practices.

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Retain current businesses  Explore the use of symbolic signage for businesses	Promotion, advertising business, events via billboard and heritage webpage (culture, heritage and business). Signage on SH1 indicating food, toilets, and other facilities (knife & fork, toilets, beds etc).	Through businesses and community support. OCA	Businesses, Community, OCA, FNDC, Schools	Ongoing
Encourage new businesses	Encourage accommodation creation - eg. Hotel and B&B's. Encourage development of cottage industries, market days and catering opportunities.	Community input, advertising, schools and marae.	FNDC OCA Community Cycleway Trust	Ongoing
Improve access to Fibre optic cabling and to Internet	As per goal	Request information on where we are on the plan. Continue to explore and encourage options.	FNDC College Service providers	Med-Term
Ensure adequate zoning for commercial premises and their operation	Ensure we can retain what we have, while allowing us to grow the area - without disadvantaging existing businesses or residents.	Include Cycleway overlay in the District Plan to encourage development. Review current zoning, in consultation with the community.	FNDC Community Cycleway Trust	Ongoing



## Focus Area: Youth Issues

**Vision Statement: Children and Youth are an important and integral part of our community**

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Sport	Encourage team sports and volunteer assistance. Sports clubs hold competitions	Dialogue with local clubs, schools and marae to find leaders to encourage further development of sport. Encourage competitions for codes such as Keorahi, Touch rugby.	Sport Northland Community involvement Rugby club	Short-Term
Encourage all sports and cultural clubs to include youth.	Approach local clubs and associations to ensure youth inclusion. Partner with Sport Northland to provide events for youth. Encourage use of local facilities – such as the Tennis courts.	Youth tournaments Family events Sport workshops – e.g. tennis	Rugby club Bowling club Sport Northland Golf club	Ongoing
Encourage a 'youth voice'	Invite youth to participate in all community activities – e.g. OCA, Lions and others. Mentoring youth. Encouraging youth in employment. Encourage, within youth, social ownership of activities.	Invite College committee member participation – Academic, Cultural, Services, Sporting.	College Community Sports clubs / codes	Ongoing
Hold regular events in the community and encourage youth to be involved in the organisation	Encourage youth participation in annual events – such as the annual Christmas gala and Christmas Tree competition.	Partner with School groups (e.g. OSCAR, school service committees) for annual events. Support school events.	OSCAR School service committees OCA Schools Community Local sports clubs	Ongoing

## Focus Area: Okaihau Lifestyle

**Vision Statement:** Okaihau provides a vibrant and peaceful community lifestyle in a valued rural and natural environment.

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Ensure accommodation and business development is appropriate for our vision.	Support a range of businesses, while retaining open space and views. Encourage other services and supporting businesses.	Promote Okaihau to the wider community. Investigate options for an Okaihau website for the promotion of local businesses and opportunities. Monitor decisions made by council.	FNDC Community Private landowners.	Ongoing
Appropriate Land Use	Protect high value agricultural and horticultural land. Protect land with high aesthetic, heritage and conservation values.	Monitor decisions made by council.	FNDC Community Private landowners.	Ongoing
Self-determination and autonomy (and subsidiarity).	As a community we work collaboratively to ensure we have active and inclusive representation in matters important to the community.	Bring the community together to discuss relevant issues. Make representation to council on behalf of the community.	OCA FNDC Community	Ongoing



**Focus Area: Okaihau Culture and Heritage.**

**Vision Statement: Okaihau values and promotes its unique cultural heritage.**

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
Further cultural integration	Encouraging and celebrating cultural diversity.	Cultural Festivals Sporting events	Sports clubs Schools Cultural groups	Ongoing
Recognise local Maori history and culture.	Talk with local kaumatua and kuia to establish what can be, and needs to be recognised, embraced and celebrated.	Encourage these as school projects.	Schools Community Heritage NZ Okaihau Pioneer group	Ongoing
Recognise local Pakeha history and culture.	Capture and celebrate the stories of local settler families and settlement events. Celebrate 175 years of education in Okaihau in 2024.	Facilitate the storage of historical information – utilising the library.		
Establish and explain the history of the railroad.	Link the railroad development to the development of the district.	Talk to Heritage NZ for advice and information. Talk to the Okaihau Pioneer group about gathering information from their members. Investigate other sources and avenues. Advertise for copies of local family history to be held in the library.		
Maintain and develop the cycle and walkway networks around Okaihau	Tell the 'back story' with plaques and signpost historic sites, stories and events.	Partner with Cycleway Trust for historical apps. Investigate future information options, such as phone apps, to give a guided tour of the area.	Cycleway Trust OCA	
History Board	Continue to maintain, update and develop.	5-yearly review of History Board information.	OCA Community	Ongoing

## Focus Area: Okaihau Community Safety

**Vision Statement:** Okaihau provides as safe and caring community environment.

Goal	Key Actions	How it Will be Done	Key Progress Partners	Time Frame
More effective lighting in Township	Okaihau sign lighting and improved street lighting on Settlers Way and side streets	Better lighting at public toilets. Need a map of Development Plan lighting. Need effective lighting on the footpath side of the streets.	FNDC and Community Board	Med-Term
Town Drainage	Close open drains in Lawn, Michie and Nova streets.	Storm water piping and fill	FNDC or relevant agency	Short-Med term
Safe streets, Businesses and homes	Develop and install a CCTV system in the village that allows the ability to be added to and improved.  Encourage participation in Community patrols and Neighbourhood watch.	Community board and local fundraising, Police, Community  Provide information on local community patrol & neighbourhood watch groups	FNDC Police Community Funding providers Community Board Kaikohe Community Patrol	Ongoing
Active policing	Request more constant policing in the village	Police in schools, and more visibly & regularly around the community.	Police	Short-term then Ongoing
Sewage system	Feasibility study of the needs of the community – now and for the future. Discuss with community then take up with council. (limitations on business and pressure from cycle tourism)	Request feasibility study by council	FNDC	Long-Term
Enhance community resilience	Update Civil Defence response plan. Promote the info to the wider community. Ensure infrastructure adequate to cover emergencies – e.g. electrical, water, roading etc	Special interest working group(s) to look at water, electricity, roading and food vulnerabilities.	FNDC CD group Community Schools	Ongoing