



LOCAL AREA PLAN
TE HENGA (BETHELLE'S BEACH)
AND THE WAITĀKERE RIVER VALLEY

WAITĀKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA

ADOPTED OCTOBER 2015

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	3
LOCAL AREA PLAN BOUNDARY	4
HERITAGE FEATURES	6
STATEMENT OF EXISTING CHARACTER AND AMENITY	13
STATEMENT OF FUTURE CHARACTER AND AMENITY – A 30-YEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE	15
LOCAL AREA PLAN OUTCOMES AND KEY ACTIONS	16
APPENDIX 1: DETAILED ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	25
APPENDIX 2: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES BY COMMUNITY GROUPS	46
APPENDIX 3: KEY SOURCES OF REFERENCES	48

Cover photo: Te Henga (Bethells Beach) Surf Tower and Ihumoana Island – Rebecca Clarke



Tree hut, Aiyana Hoare

BACKGROUND

This Local Area Plan (LAP) represents the outcome of conversations between members of the local community, iwi, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Auckland Council and its Council Controlled Organisations, and groups with an interest in Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River Valley. It aims to reflect a consensus based on shared values and aspirations expressed by the participants.

Consultation events were held between July 2014 and June 2015 to develop a vision for the future of Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River Valley in the context of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2008 (the Act). We shared our views on what needs to be done to protect and enhance the heritage features of this beautiful place and achieve community outcomes.

The LAP will provide a long-term (30 year) direction for Council, iwi and community action in the area.

It should be noted that the adoption of the LAP by the Council does not constitute a decision by the Council to act upon it. However, if a decision by the Council is significantly inconsistent with the LAP, the Act obliges the Council to identify the inconsistency and the reasons for it.

There are four key components to the LAP:

1. the boundary which defines the area
2. the heritage features that are important to and valued by the community
3. a statement of the existing character and amenity of the area
4. a vision for the future of the area and the objectives and actions proposed to achieve that vision.

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Auckland Council will consider making changes to plans and policies to achieve the objectives and actions laid out in the LAP. Changes could include introducing those parts of the LAP relating to resource management into the Unitary Plan through a future Plan Change process, and introducing those matters relating to council services into the Local Board Plan, Long Term Plan and Annual Plan. Community-based actions to implement the LAP will also be encouraged and enabled.

This LAP will also be used as a basis for information and policy development in the preparation of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Area Plan in the coming years.

It will serve as an advocacy tool for the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and the Auckland Council when providing recommendations and feedback to Auckland Council Controlled Organisations (such as Auckland Transport, Watercare and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development).

The LAP background reports include information collated and analysed for the purpose of preparing the LAP. They also include records of the views expressed through the consultation and engagement process. These are available to the public. Please contact the North West Planning Unit on 09 301 0101 for copies of these documents.

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 provides for the preparation and adoption of LAPs to:

- promote the purpose of the Act and its objectives
- provide long-term objectives in relation to the future amenity, character and environment of the Local Area, and the wellbeing of the communities that live there
- inform decision making processes that relate to the heritage area.

LAPs must be developed using a process that encourages people to participate and contribute to the preparation of the LAP, complies with the principles of consultation in s82 of the Local Government Act 2002, has regard to the management plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, and consults with tangata whenua.

LOCAL AREA PLAN BOUNDARY

The boundary for this LAP is based on guidance from the Act, and consultation with the local community. It has been drawn around the catchment of the Waitākere River to the south, the limit of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to the north, and properties with access off Te Henga Road to the east (including some properties within the Anzac Valley catchment off Te Henga Rd and Unity Rd). It includes parts of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park that are within the catchment of the Waitākere River, including the Cascades Kauri Park area.



Property owners within the catchment of the Waitākere River Valley, but outside of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, have also been invited to participate in events and contributed to this LAP. Some of the actions from this LAP (for example those that relate to on-going land and water management, and ecological restoration), are not geographically constrained by the LAP boundary and may extend to the north of the valley. The fact that an area is not included within the LAP does not preclude projects or activities aligned with the LAP from taking place within that area if land owners are in agreement.

This area is within the rohe of Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whatua. It includes areas subject to statutory acknowledgement, deed of recognition or whenua rāhui, and cultural redress land returned to Te Kawerau ā Maki as part of their Treaty of Waitangi settlement. For details, refer to Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015 or contact the Auckland Council.



HERITAGE FEATURES

Research was undertaken to identify the extent and nature of the heritage features that exist within this Local Area and their relationship with the wider heritage area.

This section summarises the information collated and analysed in the background reports prepared for the LAP. A list of references is provided in Appendix 3.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP OF TANGATA WHENUA WITH THE AREA

Te Kawerau ā Maki History and Relationship within Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere Valley (from Te Kawerau Iwi Tribal Authority, May 2014).

"The LAP area is of great importance to the identity of Te Kawerau ā Maki, as it sits within the wider Waitākere/West Auckland area which is the heartland of Te Kawerau's rohe. Te Henga and the Waitākere Valley form a spiritual and cultural stronghold of the people, and is associated with the earliest of ancestors and traditions, being continually occupied up until the mid-20th century. A more thorough history and explanation can be found in Taua (2009), which has informed the text below. Other detailed sources are the evidence of Te Warena Taua and Graham Murdoch to the Waitangi Tribunal, and the Bethells/Te Henga/Waitākere Valley Local Area Background Report prepared by Jenny Macdonald (2010).

In the traditions of Te Kawerau ā Maki the first human inhabitants of the land were the Tūrehu who arose from the very earth. Our ancestor, the Tūrehu chieftain Tiriwa, lived throughout the extensive forest which once covered West Auckland, the remnant of which is now the Waitākere Ranges. It is from this ancestor that the traditional name for Waitākere, Te Wao nui a Tiriwa the great forest of Tiriwa, comes. Tiriwa is credited with many great feats, including Te Unuhanga a Rangitoto, where he shifted Rangitoto Island to its current position from Mercer Bay in Karekare. Along with the Tūrehu, the secretive forest-dwelling people named Patupaiarehe or Tahurangi in the Kawerau tradition, and the kahui tipua, or guardian taniwha, resided throughout the area. One malevolent taniwha named Te Mokoroa, guardian of the northern ranges and Waitākere River valley, was killed by the ancestor Taiaoroa at Te rua o Te Mokoroa (the Mokoroa Falls). The taniwha Paikea remains a guardian or kaitiaki of the Waitākere coastline and Manukau Harbour entrance. A particularly significant kaitiaki for Te Kawerau is the kawau or cormorant, which is guardian over Waitākere and beyond.

As well as the Tūrehu, Te Kawerau ā Maki descends from a number of early figures and tribal groups who migrated to the area and absorbed the earlier peoples. Of special note is the famous Māori ancestor and navigator Kupe mai tawhiti who visited the Waitākere coastline and left his mark in the many place names which are associated with the area, including Whakatū (the bay just south of Te Henga) and the sea off the Waitākere coastline known as Ngā tai Whakatū a Kupe or 'the upraised seas of Kupe'. The later arrival of the Moekākāra and Tainui canoes are significant to the origins of Kawerau and are connected to the area. Some of the crew of the Tainui, including Hoturoa, Rakataura (Hape) and Poutukeka, settled in the Waitākere area, and married into the earlier local people. In time their descendants developed their own tribal names like Ngāti Taihaua, Ngāti Poutukeka and Ngāi Riukiuta, while retaining the original collective tribal name of the Tainui people - Ngāoho.

The origins of Te Kawerau ā Maki as a distinct tribe stem from the arrival of the eponymous ancestor Maki and the



Waitākere is a rock feature located in the small bay north of Ihumoana Island. The name refers to the endlessly rolling seas that wash over it. From Te Warena Taua, 2009



conquering of the region in the early 1600s. Maki and some 300 of his hapu had moved north from Kawhia to the lands of his Ngāoho and Ngāiwi relatives. Maki quickly rose to prominence in the region, cumulating in an event known as Te Waewaekotuku which describes his conquering of the Auckland Isthmus and the naming of the land as 'Tā-Maki' and also as 'Te Ipu Kura ā Maki'. In the years that followed Maki and his followers took control over the lands to the west and north of the Isthmus through battle and marriage. Control of Hikurangi was secured after a number of battles near Piha and Huia, and Maki stamped his mana on the area by naming the many peaks of the Waitākere Ranges from Muriwai to the Manukau Harbour as Ngā Rau Pou ā Maki, or the many posts of Maki.

Tawhiakiterangi, the youngest son of Maki and Rotu, and the founding ancestor of Te Kawerau ā Maki,

held the lands of Hikurangi and the Southern Kaipara. He also had rights to the North Shore and Whangaparaoa area (Te Whenua roa o Kahu) through marriage to his grand-niece Marukiterangi, daughter of Kahu, son of Maraeariki - Maki's third son. He lived at kāinga throughout this domain including at Helensville, Riverhead, Hobsonville, Te Atatū, Okura, and throughout the Waitākere Ranges.

Te Kawerau ā Maki continued to occupy their ancestral domain over the following generations under the guidance of Tawhiakiterangi's direct descendants. Of particular note is his grandson Te Hawiti, who concluded a lasting peace with Ngāti Whātua, known as Te Taupaki, and because of his decisiveness in the process was accorded the name Te Auotewhenua – 'the current of the land'. Te Taupaki, located between Muriwai and Te Henga, was not a boundary but a place where one of four peace-making deals were held. Te Auotewhenua lived at various pā and kāinga throughout Hikurangi and Te Whenua roa o Kahu, including often at Puketōtara near Te Henga. It was from Te Auotewhenua that our tūpuna successfully laid claim to our remaining 'native reserve' land in West Auckland, after the devastation of the Crown purchases of the 1850s. Upon his death he was laid to rest on one of the highest points of the Waitākere ranges and his son Kowhatukiteuru took over as leader of Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Kowhatukiteuru is famed in Te Kawerau ā Maki tradition as a builder of pā in the Waitākere Ranges and was renowned for possessing many chiefly skills. He was given his name because he used stone retaining walls in the pā he constructed, from Pakohatu and Anawhata in the north of the district, to Te Kā ā Maki at Huia. He even assisted his Te Waiohua relative Te Rauiti to build such fortifications at Te Tatua a Riukiuta (the Three Kings) on the Tāmaki isthmus. He built the pā known as Pakowhatu

and Koropōtiki above Lake Wainamu which are of the few remaining examples of stone pā.

It was not until 1825 during the invasion by Ngāpuhi forces from the north that Te Kawerau ā Maki were forced for the first time from the area, with most of the survivors seeking exile in the Waikato while a small number of Te Kawerau people remained within the forest to ensure ahi kā [literally keep the home fires burning – maintain occupation of the land]. The Ngāpuhi invasion was not about the acquisition of land, but of utu (revenge) against the Tāmaki relatives of those who had offended Ngāpuhi in the past. In 1836 the bulk of Te Kawerau ā Maki returned, first resettling at Kakamatua near Huia, then moving north to build a musket pā and re-establish our kāinga at Te Henga. With Ngāpuhi having returned to the north, Te Kawerau ā Maki were again secure on our land and continued to move across our wide domain as our ancestors had.

In the 1830's and 1840's interaction with Europeans unfortunately led to the transmission of disease which further impacted the population of Te Kawerau, and also marked the beginning of the inexorable loss of land and traditional livelihood due to early private land sales of which the rangatira of Te Kawerau ā Maki had no knowledge, compounded by the individualisation of title to Māori land resulting from the provisions of the Native Land Act 1865.

Te Kawerau ā Maki remained at the village at Waiti, Te Henga [which was situated on flat land near the existing Waiti Bridge], until the death of the Rangatira Te Utika Te Aroha in 1912, when most moved to the settlements of relatives at Ōrākei, Pukaki, and Puketāpapa. The last remaining land was sold in the 1960s as a result of social and economic pressures that, as with other iwi and hapu in the North Island, compelled a shift towards urban centres."

The Māori Cultural Landscape

(from Te Kawerau Iwi Tribal Authority, May 2014).

“Te Henga and the Waitākere Valley can only be meaningfully understood as part of a much wider cultural landscape context. At the macro level, this context extends to all corners of Te Kawerau ā Maki rohe and beyond, where locations are associated with significant events, legends, and ancestors. The stories of the gods such as Mataoho, demi-gods such as Māui, and famous battles and feats by tūpuna such as Tiriwa and Maki are tied to the land and form part of the phenomenology or understanding of the landscape for Kawerau people. The cultural landscape context is how Kawerau navigated the rohe in a seasonal cycle of resource use, being at times camped at Te Henga in the Waitākere Ranges, while at other times at Huia on the northern Manukau, Te Atatū (Orangihina) on the inner Waitemata Harbour, Okura on the east coast of the North Shore, or at Tawharanui and Mahurangi to the north, among a multitude of other places. That shellfish and bird species specific to the Waitemata are found in midden assemblages on the west coast near Piha and Te Henga are evidence of this fluid movement across the landscape and the interconnectedness of settlements and transport routes.

At the local level, Te Henga and the Waitākere Valley create a unique cultural landscape consisting of a high density of pā (defended settlements), kāinga (open settlements), wāhi tapu (sacred sites), transport routes (e.g. tracks and navigable streams and rivers), cultivations and cultural harvesting resources (e.g. timber, fish, medicinal plants, and birds). The many place names of the area reflect this history and heritage and are viewed by Kawerau as powerful reminders of the past.”

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Early settlers and farming

The Crown purchased Te-Pae-o-te-Rangi block, an area of around 25,000 acres encompassing the northern half of the Waitākere Ranges from Māori in 1853. The land was divided into blocks with the necessary road access. In addition to the Waitākere ‘Native Reserve’ at Te Henga, much of the land was in two large blocks: ‘McLeod’s claim’, a block of 1,751 acres on the northern side of the Waitākere River, and ‘Kelly’s block’ of 2,873 acres, mainly on the southern side of the river and extending out towards the coast. The blocks were granted by the Crown to Europeans who were eligible through the free grant system.

In 1856, John and Allan O’Neill, sons of Allan Charles O’Neill, who had surveyed the Waitākere Valley after its transfer to the Crown, received Crown grants. John O’Neill went to purchase more land and by the end of the 19th century, farmed most of the land in the valley from the Landing (at the upper end of Te Henga wetland, which was then a clear waterway) to the beach. Around 1892, he also bought land on the northern side of the Waitākere River from a lawyer named Dufaur who had purchased about half of the Waitākere Native Reserve.

Around this time, Dufaur also sold to John Neale Bethell land running south into the hinterland from the beach. John (Pa) Bethell had arrived in Auckland in 1858 aged two, and from a young age helped his older brother to clear and farm his father’s 225 acres of land on the northern side of the Anawhata Stream. After purchasing the new property, he named it ‘Te Henga’, the Maori name for the area, inspired by the shape of the dunes which resemble an upturned waka.

The Wainamu property was first farmed in 1920 by

Harold Houghton after the land was cleared of its kauri trees. Happy and Elizabeth Wheeler purchased the farm in 1954, reinstating the Māori name for Lake Wainamu.

Flax

A flax mill was established in 1870 close to the Landing for processing the flax that grew abundantly in the marshy land. In those days, flax was mainly used in rope and twine making. This provided employment for many local people. Te Kawerau ā Maki people established a camp by the Waihoroi or Brissenden Stream while they worked in the flax mill. The cut flax was loaded onto canoes and towed up the swamp to the mill to be scotched or heckled (the fibre separated from the fleshy part).

Timber milling



Steam Hauler Track, Auckland Council

Timber was reportedly milled in the upper Waitākere Valley area from 1870, taken by bullock carts along boggy clay tracks to Henderson Stream and then barged to Auckland. The completion of the railway from Waikumete to Kumeu in 1881 opened up the area for more intensive logging, providing an economic means of transport for timber logs, which were taken to the railway yards at Waitākere station. In the 1880’s felling operations took place in the upper Mokoroa Valley, the Cascade Kauri Park area, running up to Pukematakeo, and in the area between Te Henga and

Anawhata. A small mill operated in the upper Waitākere Valley in the late 1800s to cut the kauri felled in the area to be flooded by the construction of the Waitākere Dam. A steam hauler – a stationary engine that could haul timber milled in the valley along a wooden tram rail operated from the late 1900’s until the early 1920’s on the present-day Steam Hauler Track.

The timber was then taken by horse wagon down Bethells Road to Waitākere Station.

Logging further intensified between 1919 and 1925 when the Kauri Timber Company (KTC) constructed a bush tramline along the Waitākere Valley and up the hill, on the route of the bush tramway, then down to the Waitākere Station. The KTC freighted their logs by rail to their large Freeman’s Bay sawmill. They owned three large timber blocks in the area, including the Wainamu Valley, and two blocks on the north side of the wetland at Snows Bush and the Mokoroa Stream.

Very little kauri grew on the Bethell family property at Te Henga and it was never logged for Kauri.

Cascade Kauri Park

An area stretching from Long Road eastwards across the Cascade Stream to the watershed boundary of the Waitākere Reservoir was also lined up for felling in 1924, when the Auckland City Council began negotiating for its purchase for a public reserve. The area, now known as Cascade Kauri Park, was saved just in time: some tracks had been cut and plans were afoot to dynamite the Cascade falls to allow logs to be more easily driven over them.

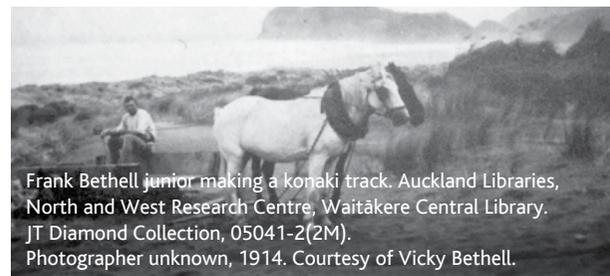
Gum digging

Gum digging was closely associated with the timber felling industry. ‘Climbing rights’ were obtained from the timber companies and gum was found in the forks of the kauri

branches, or ‘bled’ before the trees were felled. A special train known as the ‘Gumdiggers’ Special’ took family groups of prospectors at weekends from the city to the Waitākere Station for many years. These activities provided at best only a precarious living, but most families on the weekend train were likely trying to supplement the family income in economically hard times.

Tourism and hospitality

By the late 19th and early 20th century, nature lovers, trampers and families began visiting the West Coast. The Waitākere Falls were one of the sightseeing attractions of the Ranges until the construction of the Waitākere Dam in 1910. The more adventurous tourists chose to make the journey to ‘Te Henga’ and camp near the Bethells Homestead.



Frank Bethell junior making a konaki track. Auckland Libraries, North and West Research Centre, Waitākere Central Library. JT Diamond Collection, 05041-2(2M). Photographer unknown, 1914. Courtesy of Vicky Bethell.

From the early 1900s the Bethell family hosted campers and visitors drawn by the natural beauty of the place, and from modest beginnings developed over a fifty year period a reputation for being “the” place to holiday. It catered, with plentiful seafood and farm produce, for up to 80 guests who were accommodated in small cottages dotted round the homestead. This tradition has continued through four generations of Bethell descendants and is still a feature of present day life at Te Henga. The cottages continue to host visitors. They have since complemented by other accommodation offerings at Lake Wainamu and further up the valley.

Te Henga School

The Education Board provided a teacher in the 1920’s and briefly established a school at ‘Te Henga’ for children from neighbouring farms, who were accommodated in the guesthouses for the school week.

Subdivision in the 1900s

From the 1930’s onwards, increasingly viable roads made holiday retreats in the area a feasible option. Parcels of land owned by the settler families out at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) were sold to friends, family and regular visitors to the area. O’Neill’s property in the valley was divided up into smaller farms from 1933. Subdivision on Tasman View Road began in 1953. In the 1970’s, allowance was made for a subdivision of 21 sections on the flats near the beach on Bethell family land. The Bethell family sold an area of foreshore to the Waitemata County Council, which became Te Henga Park, opening the beach to the general public. Also in the 1970s, the Wheeler family sold part of the Wainamu farm and the lake to the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, opening the area up for visitors.

Today there are still a number of large properties in the Te Henga (Bethells Beach) area owned by descendants of the original settler families. Over the years, local families have exercised stewardship over the area, protecting significant areas of land through covenanting, leading and participating in dune and stream restoration efforts as well as contributing to the building of community identity and infrastructure. The land reveals little of the history of early European settlement and extractive industry in the area, gum digging, pit saws, driving dams, timber tramways and flax mills. Remnants of driving dams and the embankments for the bush tramway remain in some places, fading into the bush and farmland. The names of many of the local roads, streams and other landmarks reflect some of

the early settlers and activities, for example O'Neils Beach, Wigmore Bay, Bethells Road, Steam Hauler Track and the Olaf Stream (for Olaf Peterson, an early photographer of the area hailing from Swanson). Historians, photographers and artists have recorded aspects of the early European settlers' lives in the area. However, there is little 'on the ground' interpretation available to bring the past alive, the exception being the historic interpretation panel at Cascade Kauri Park.

THE WAITĀKERE DAM AND RESERVOIR

The Waitākere dam, completed in 1910, is the earliest of the concrete dams constructed in the Auckland Region to supply the city with potable water. The lake covers an area of around 25 hectares, and has a capacity of 1.76 million cubic metres. The water is treated at the Christian Road treatment plant in Swanson.

ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL LANDFORMS AND LANDSCAPES

The Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere Valley area is outstanding for the extensive and intact nature of its lowland and coastal forest ecosystems, and their associated dune and wetland systems. It contains distinctive and outstanding plant species, fauna and landscapes.

In its upper reaches, the area features diverse and mature forest types of high conservation value, particularly in the area north-east of Te Henga Road surrounding the Waitākere Quarry and Steam Hauler track, and in the Cascade Kauri Park. Forests with tall broad leaf and podocarp tree species can be found on slopes and gullies, with a dense canopy and a wide range of tree

species, including pūriri, rewarewa, rimu, tawa, kahikatea and kauri. It is the location of Ark in the Park, the largest



conservation project in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, a community-based project and a partnership between Forest & Bird (Waitākere Branch) and the Auckland Council. The project started in January 2002 with the aim to restore functioning native ecosystems through pest control and re-introduction of native animals and plants lost from the Waitākere Ranges.

The project area encompasses 2,100 ha of parkland with an additional 600 ha buffer zone on adjacent private land. The success of the project has led to the re-introduction of whitehead, North Island robin and the North Island kokako.

The valley in the lower reaches of Te Henga wetland is contiguous with a large forest tract in the Mokoroa Stream catchment. Within the valley, areas of mature kānuka are present. Following historic clearance and farming in the area these tracts have been left to regenerate. They connect to remnant stands of cut over kauri and coastal broadleaf forest. Along roadsides and stream gullies native scrub is regenerating and large

(mostly exotic) trees form links between the bush areas. Vegetation types within the valley include examples of young kauri forest, kauri-tanekaha forest, kauri-kānuka forest, pūriri composite forest, ponga-broadleaf forest, kahikatea swamp and machaerina (formerly Baumea) sedgeland. There is also an excellent example of seral succession (an important stage in ecological succession, often following disturbance) in the freshwater wetland ecosystem, transitioning from open water to floating vegetative mats, sedgeland, cabbage tree forest and terrestrial forest. Species present in the valley include the threatened Australasian bittern, the regionally threatened North Island fernbird, the sparse spotless crane, and possibly the marsh crane. In the estuary, they also include the reef heron, pied stilt, caspian tern, white fronted heron and paradise duck. The wetland is now the home of the pateke, the nationally endangered brown teal, which was reintroduced to the area in 2015. Matuku Reserve hosts four species of lizard, the Auckland green gecko, forest gecko, pacific gecko and copper skink. A diverse range of insect and snail fauna and other endemic species are found in the area. Roosting areas for pekapeka, the New Zealand long-tailed bat, a threatened endemic species, have been discovered in large, emergent trees in the Cascade Kauri Park, and recently have been detected at several places in the Waitākere River Valley, Stoney Creek, Matuku Reserve, Lake Wainamu and Lake Kawaupaku.

South of Te Aute ridge, steep south facing slopes drop down to the stream beds of Te Aute and Waiti streams. The area features open pastoral land on the eastern headwaters, south of Te Aute Stream and north of Lake Wainamu. Small scattered fragments of kānuka scrub are present amongst the grassed slopes. Indigenous forest and scrub covers much of the remainder of the area. A pūriri composite forest remnant covers the northern slope

above Waiti Stream and further up Te Aute Stream Valley the landscape is dominated by kānuka forest and scrub. This is interspersed with regenerating species including karaka, pūriri, rewarewa, pigeonwood and mangeao. Waiti Stream drains into a small freshwater wetland comprised mainly of raupō, cabbage tree and mānuka.

Te Henga (Bethells Beach) Coastal Village comprises the more compact residential housing areas in the Valley, inland dunes and the low hills behind the dune systems of Te Henga (Bethells Beach). Lake Wainamu and the catchment of Lake Kawaupaku form the eastern and southern boundaries of the village area and the lower reaches of the Waitākere River form the northern boundary. The coastal village features grassed lawns and ornamental gardens throughout. There have been ongoing restoration and replanting efforts, extensive weed and pest control, and restoration of the dune ecosystem on Council land by community volunteers. This has allowed the return of breeding pairs of Dotterels to the beach. Vegetation types include kānuka scrub and pōhutukawa forest on unconsolidated (loose) sand, pōhutukawa forest, kānuka forest and pūriri composites forest on rugged hill country, raupō reedland and cabbage tree forest within a dune impounded lake system

The Kawaupaku Lake area is largely covered in indigenous forest and scrub. The area has remained undisturbed over the years, except for the cutting of flax and a small area of lakeside used for an orchard by Pa Bethell. The dune impounded lake forms the northern boundary and extends south towards Anawhata Road. A small settlement at the southern end of Bethells Beach is comprised of a group of residential dwellings, auxiliary buildings and open pastoral farmland. Because of its remote and inaccessible location this area is largely unmodified. A narrow fringe of wetland vegetation is found on the margins of the lake.

These include raupō, bamboo spike sedge, jointed twig rush and giant umbrella sedge. Also present are localised dense areas of giant reed. On the northern slopes of the lake, pōhutukawa forest dominates and is interspersed with pūriri, rewarewa, karaka, mangeao, nikau and kōwhai. Tawapou has also been identified at this site as well as on the nearby Bethell property.

Elsewhere in this area the land is covered in coastal broadleaf forest comprised of pūriri, rewarewa, karaka, mangeao, kānuka, nikau, kōwhai and some clusters of pole kauri. Scattered remnants of scrub are interspersed with rimu, tanekaha, rewarewa, lancewood and occasional kauri. An extensive tract of coastal scrub (a low growing canopy of mānuka and kānuka, with flax, hangehange, ngaio and cabbage trees scattered throughout) covers the headland and secondary kānuka scrub covers the Kawaupaku hinterland.

The northern Te Henga coastline consists of a stretch of rocky and sandy coastline incorporating the two vegetated islands of Ihumoana and Kawauhaia, the headland at Erangi Point and vegetated hill slope of marine sand. Vegetation types include kānuka scrub on consolidated sand, pōhutukawa forest, karo-houpara forest and flax-mānuka scrub on the exposed rocky coast. A range of seabird species are present including colonies of grey faced petrel, sooty shearwater and diving petrel.

PARKLAND AND RECREATION

The area offers numerous opportunities for wilderness experiences and recreation. Swimming, surfing, rock fishing, picnicking, golfing and dog walking on the beach are popular activities. Various tracks of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, including the popular Auckland City Walk in the Cascade Kauri Park area, and part of the Hillary Trail are located in the area.



Juvenile tui in pohutukawa – Vicky Bethell



Bethells Beach Rural Fire Force – Petroesjka Grundemann

KAITIAKITANGA AND THE EXERCISE OF STEWARDSHIP

Over the years, many local landowners and volunteer groups have given of their time and efforts to help protect and restore the nature of Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere Valley. Today active community groups and individuals continue to work to protect and enhance the character of the area and restore its biodiversity. They undertake weed and pest management and ecological restoration work on private land, road frontages and reserves. This includes the sand dunes of Te Henga, the banks of the Waitākere River and its tributaries, Te Henga wetland, along the ridges, the forested parts of the valley (at Matuku Reserve, Stoney Creek Drive and Steam Hauler Track), as well as throughout the Ark in the Park area and adjacent private properties. A list of some of the community groups involved in ecological restoration work, and Council programmes in the area in 2015, is provided in Appendix 2.

The local volunteer fire brigade and the Bethells Beach Surf Lifesaving Club provide essential emergency services and facilities, and are important for community networking and cohesion. The Bethells Café operating on Te Henga Park during summer week-ends is an important venue for recreation and social interactions between local residents. Informal groups and networks have been formed to respond to local needs, for example to organise community events, raise awareness of local issues, advocate for improved internet broadband services, or set up a community web page and facebook page.

Surrounding local centres offer essential community facilities and services to Te Henga community. These include Waitākere Primary School in Waitākere township, community halls at Waitākere and Taupaki, the train and bus services at Waitākere and Swanson stations, and the library and community centre in Ranui.

PRINCIPLES OF KAITIAKITANGA – FROM TE KAWERAU-Ā-MAKI, MAY 2014

“The people of Te Kawerau-ā-Maki have an obligation to guard, protect and maintain the interests of the iwi, its taonga, wāhi tapu, and the natural resources within its rohe. In Te Ao Māori knowledge of the workings of the environment and the perception of humanity as part of the natural and spiritual world is expressed in the concept of mauri and kaitiakitanga. Mauri can be described as the life force that is present in all things. Mauri generates, regenerates and upholds creation, binding physical and spiritual elements of all things together. Without mauri, things cannot survive. Practices have been developed over many centuries to maintain the mauri of all parts of the world. Observing these practices involves the ethic and exercise of kaitiakitanga. (...)

Kaitiaki responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- protection and maintenance of wāhi tapu and other heritage sites
- protection of taonga
- placing of rāhui (temporary ritual prohibition) to allow replenishment of harvested resources
- restoration of damaged ecosystems
- protection of sensitive environments
- directing development in ways which are in keeping with the environment
- ensuring the sustainable use of resources
- observing the tikanga associated with traditional activities
- providing for the needs of present and future generations”.

STATEMENT OF EXISTING CHARACTER AND AMENITY

Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere Valley is a place of exceptionally beautiful and diverse landscapes. Its succession of varied landforms and ecosystems makes it the home of rare and threatened species of coastal, estuarine, wetland and forest plants and animals.

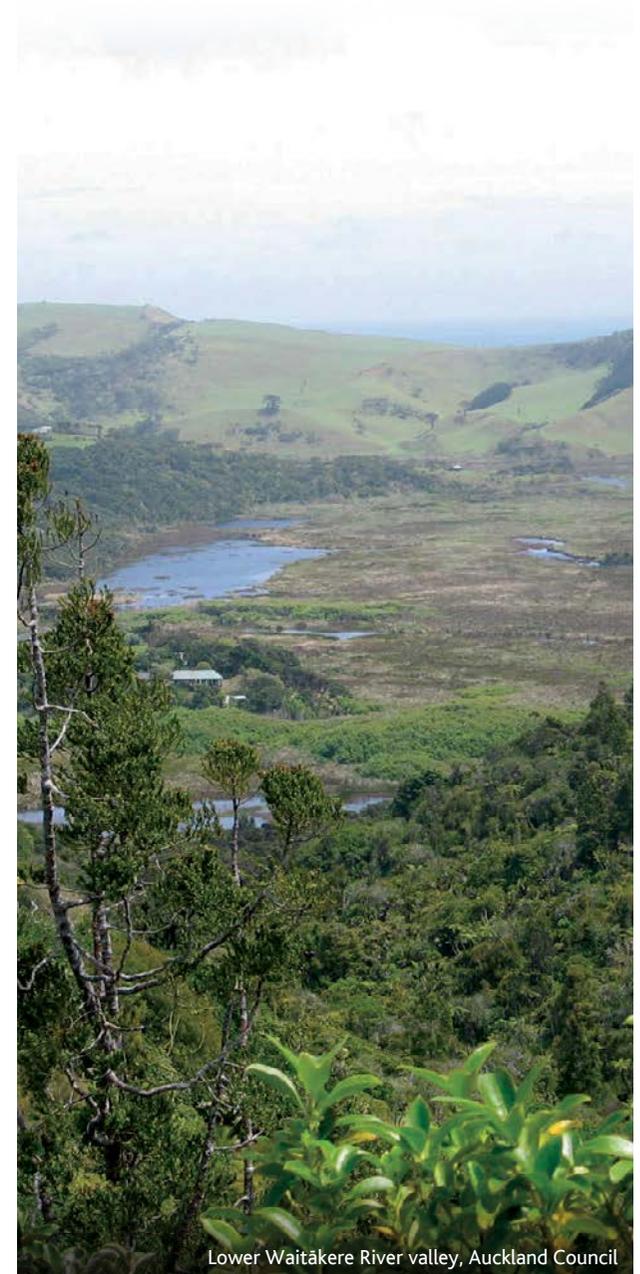
The lower Waitākere Valley was once an important place of occupation for Te Kawerau ā Maki. The resources provided by its generous fresh water environment and its proximity to the coast made it an ideal place for settlement and cultivation. It remains of high importance to iwi, and there is a renewed presence of Te Kawerau ā Maki in the area.

Along the upper reaches of Te Henga Road, the landscape is dominated on the southern side by bush clad slopes extending towards Cascade Kauri Park. On the northern side, much of the land is held in lifestyle blocks, some of them productive farmlets or orchards with small bush patches, others nearly entirely covered in bush.

Apart from a cluster of dwellings on small plots in the Unity Road and Falls Road area, houses are barely visible as driveways meander amongst vegetation and landforms.

At the intersection of Te Henga and Falls Road, the Ark in the Park bus shelter painted by local artist Derek March has become a local landmark. On Falls Road, the Waitākere Golf Course offers open views toward the valley gently sloping westward and the bush clad narrow gorge of Cascade Kauri Park. Further down on Te Henga Road, the landscape changes abruptly as the road penetrates the floor of the old Waitākere quarry. A vertical rock face lines the southern side of the road, which opens up northwards towards the part of the quarry that is still in operation, visible through the revegetating mounds. Aio Wira Road provides access to dwellings and a retreat centre nestled amongst the regenerating forest and invisible from the gravel road.

The valley floor and its north facing slopes are dominated by small farm holdings, dissected by vegetated streams and exotic shelter belts on the ridges. A variety of land-based uses exist there, including beef cattle, sheep and goat farming, orcharding, horticulture and honey production. Some farms offer fresh organic or spray-free produce for sale. Others offer bed and breakfast accommodation to visitors. Many are home to home-based professionals, service providers or tradespeople. The northern side of the valley is mostly covered in native vegetation. Houses off Stoney Creek Drive, Steam Hauler Track and Bethells Road are nestled amongst native forest. Many of these properties are outside the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and the area covered by this LAP, despite being within the catchment of the Waitākere River and being of high natural heritage values. A little further down the valley, Matuku Reserve lines the north eastern bank of Te Henga wetland, providing walking tracks and access to the wetland from Jonkers Road.



Lower Waitākere River valley, Auckland Council

Bethells Road is very scenic and offers a variety of visual experiences. Over the years, local landowners have planted mainly native species of trees, flax, palms and bushes along the road sides. Large mature native and exotic trees are sprinkled, clustered or lined on cleared farmland. The native bush below the ridgeline provides a consistent green backdrop and a sense of enclosure.

As the valley opens up to the wetland, Bethells Road offers glimpses of open waters, swamp vegetation and birdlife. After winding along the steep southern bank of the wetland, the road reaches the small cluster of houses at Miti's Point and suddenly offers a breathtaking view of the coastal village, the sand dunes and the beach which, marks the arrival at Te Henga. Past a few hairpin bends, an upright surf board sign warns drivers to slow down for "Free Range Kids" at the entrance to the more densely inhabited part of the coastal village.

Within the coastal village, most houses are relatively small homes, cottages or converted beach houses surrounded by exotic gardens. On Tasman View Road, houses are set back and mostly hidden by vegetation. Most properties have no fence along the front boundaries, and when fences have been erected, they are made of natural materials.

Access to the beach from Bethells Road is through Te Henga Park. The area was designed and planted by a group of people from the local community and accommodates visitor parking, community recreation and the mobile Bethells Café.

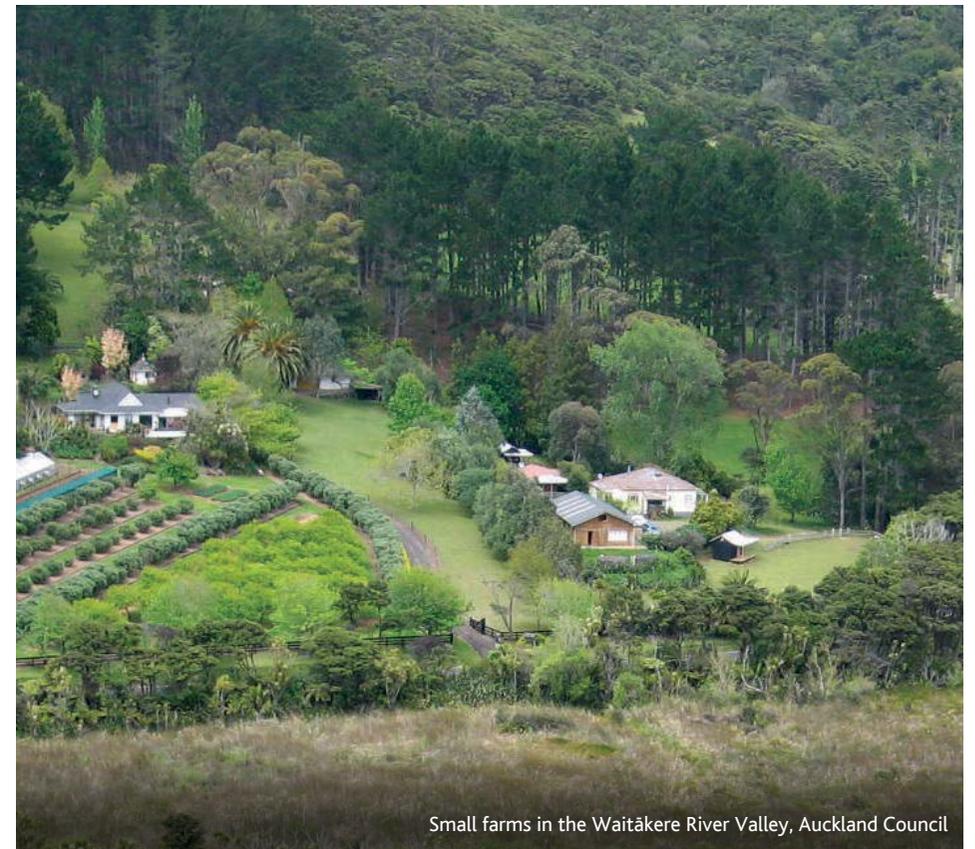
Te Aute Ridge Road provides an altogether different experience. The views from the ridge are spectacular, towards the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, the waters and sand dunes of Lake Wainamu, the Tasman Sea coastline, rolling farmland around Lake Wainamu and on the other side of the Waitākere Valley towards Muriwai, the Te Henga wetland, and the large expanses of bush across the valley.

Along the Tasman Sea, Te Henga (Bethells Beach) features a rocky coastline, black sand surf beaches, the shallow sandy estuary of the Waitākere River, sand dunes pushing inland to Lake Wainamu, Lake Kawaupaku in its bush setting and Te Henga wetland meandering along the lower Waitākere valley.

The area features three large properties (named Wainamu, Bethells and Te Henga) owned by descendants of the first settlers. These properties contribute significantly to the landscape, ecology, cultural heritage and social and economic attributes of the area, featuring areas of pasture, forestry or native forest adjacent to significant ecological features such as the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, Lake Wainamu, Lake Kawaupaku

and the Tasman Sea coastline. The properties have site specific management plans that allow a range of activities on the land, seeking to ensure that they remain economically viable, while managing potential effects on the area.

The wild and rugged nature of the area has attracted visitors and inspired artists since the late 1800's. Today Te Henga remains the home of many artists, painters, writers, sculptors, photographers, potters and musicians. It attracts local and international visitors in growing numbers. It is on the route of the Hillary Trail, a multi-day track for experienced trampers that links Titirangi to Muriwai or Swanson through the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and the wild West Coast beaches. It offers a diversity of locations for film making, an activity that has been prominent in the area for many years, and which provides income for local businesses, skilled and unskilled labour, and local landowners.



Small farms in the Waitākere River Valley, Auckland Council

STATEMENT OF FUTURE CHARACTER AND AMENITY – A 30-YEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere Valley will remain an exceptional, thriving natural environment. Its regenerating bush, stream banks, lakes, wetland and dune ecosystems, linked by healthy and connected ecological corridors, will be continue to be a place where threatened and rare species prosper and become more common, and to be valued and protected by the people of the area.

Lifestyles in the valley will support the native ecosystems and the beautiful natural, rural and coastal landscapes. The diversity of land use patterns, including the larger farms, farmlets, bush clad sections and coastal community housing, and their contribution to the character and amenity of the place, will be recognised.

The community will have access to the best available sources of knowledge, information and tools to sustain land management practices that are good for the environment, people and the local economy. The area will be well connected to the rest of Auckland with adequate and appropriate telecommunication and transport infrastructure.

New development will be sympathetic to the rural character of the area and remain subservient to the natural environment. The informal, low key character of man-made infrastructure for roads and public spaces will be retained, and wherever possible the local identity will be enhanced by features designed by local artists and iwi. Improving road safety for all users will be a priority. Where feasible, walking, cycling and bridle trails will be developed either along the road sides, or off-road, to link up pockets of houses and improve access to the beach. In the long term, on-road and off-road walking tracks will connect houses along the length of the valley.

The remote and inspiring environment of the valley will continue to nurture the well-being and creativity of its residents. Local artists and artisans will be recognised and the culture of the place celebrated. The area will remain a location of choice for the film industry. Visitors will feel welcome in the valley, but their numbers will be restricted by the capacity of the infrastructure. Management tools will be trialled and developed to minimise the impact of visitors on this fragile environment and its residents. The area will continue to be a place rich in character, cultural heritage and history. The Māori and European history and heritage of the area will become better known through documentation, information, interpretation and celebration. Historical sites will be recorded and wherever possible better protected. A marae and papakainga will be developed in the coastal village, enabling the return of Te Kawerau ā Maki to their ancestral heartland.

The community will remain peaceful, diverse and strong. Community events, networking media and easy access to sources of information will contribute to keeping people connected and well informed. The community will nurture a culture of respect, tolerance, and collaboration within itself, with iwi and the Council. The community, Auckland Council and iwi will strive to work productively with each other and with other stakeholders to achieve the outcomes identified in this plan.



Tree planting in honour of Dave Norton on 22 June 2008,
Vicky Bethell

LOCAL AREA PLAN OUTCOMES AND KEY ACTIONS

For detail on each key action, including responsibilities and timeframe for implementation, please refer to Appendix 1.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

OUTCOME 1	PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE AND ITS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
Key actions	1.1 Document the history of the area.
	1.2 Provide information on, and interpretation of the Māori cultural landscape and the European history of the area.
OUTCOME 2	WAHI TAPU, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND OTHER TAONGA ARE ADEQUATELY AND PROACTIVELY PROTECTED
Key actions	2.1 Implement archaeological surveys, site management plans and monitoring for selected cultural heritage sites, as part of a Heritage Area-wide programme.
OUTCOME 3	THE MĀORI AND EUROPEAN HERITAGE OF THE AREA IS INTERPRETED AND CELEBRATED
Key actions	3.1 Celebrate Te Kawerau ā Maki's relationship with the area and its community.
	3.2 Celebrate people's cultural and spiritual connection to the area and raise awareness of the natural cycles in the valley.



Sunnah Thompson and Elizabeth (Ibby) Wheeler at the unveiling of Lake Wainamu pou whenua on 15 April 2014, Neil Henderson

VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND PARKS

OUTCOME 4	THE AREA REMAINS A WILD, REMOTE PLACE, HOME TO A HOSPITABLE COMMUNITY
Key actions	<p>4.1 Advocate for the area not to be actively promoted by the Council or its CCOs as a tourism destination because of its environmental sensitivity and infrastructure constraints.</p> <p>4.2 Enable landowners to offer accommodation options to suit a range of budgets and visitors including trampers on the Hillary Trail while managing the effects on the environment.</p>
OUTCOME 5	VISITORS RECOGNISE AND RESPECT THE UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES OF THE AREA, AND PLACES TREASURED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IWI
Key actions	<p>5.1 Review provisions for dog walking at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) to protect wildlife and accommodate visitors and dog owners' needs.</p> <p>5.2 Improve visitor information at the beach and other key areas.</p>
OUTCOME 6	THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES TO MAKING THE AREA SAFE AND WELCOMING
Key actions	<p>6.1 Involve people in the local community in the delivery of local services whenever practicable, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the design and the making of park or road infrastructure if and when these are necessary • the maintenance of local services. <p>6.2 Plan and implement actions to address visitor management issues and monitor visitor impact on the area in collaboration with local residents and businesses, parks rangers, Bethells Valley Rural Fire Force, NZ Police and Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Club.</p>
OUTCOME 7	LOCAL PARKS CATER FOR THE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ITS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, WHILE REMAINING LOW KEY AND MAINTAINING THE RURAL AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA
Key actions	<p>7.1 Review the Concept Plan for Te Henga Park, considering options for new planting and a natural playscape, such as children and youth play facilities made with natural materials, using existing natural features and designed to fit in with the area, within the existing community 'green' at the northern end of Te Henga Park.</p> <p>7.2 Develop the site of the Waitākere Quarry as a reserve, returning most of the land to native vegetation and wetland, providing walking tracks and allowing for other appropriate uses.</p>

OUTCOME 8	PUBLIC SERVICES ARE MAINTAINED TO AN ADEQUATE LEVEL AND ARE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ADAPT TO THE FLUCTUATING VISITOR DEMAND. NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IS DESIGNED IN HARMONY WITH THIS WILD AND REMOTE ENVIRONMENT
Key actions	8.1 Implement, monitor and review a package of measures to manage peak visitor demand.
	8.2 Continue the ranger service to manage operational issues at the beach, at Lake Wainamu, within other parts of the Regional Park and in the future reserve on the former Waitākere Quarry site.
	8.3 Improve waste management services at the beach.
	8.4 Investigate the need for water safety facilities at Lake Wainamu.



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OUTCOME 9	A HUB OF LOW KEY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THAT INCLUDES SMALL LOCAL BUSINESSES, FARMING, FOOD PRODUCTION, FILMING, ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
Key actions	<p>9.1 Enable low-key economic activities while managing their effects on the environment, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote sustainable farming and food production practices • help showcase the creative talent of local artists and grow the market for local art work • support managed access to filming locations in the area • promote business networking and provide access to business support, services and advice.
	<p>9.2 Enable a range of economic activities within the three large properties in the area (namely Wainamu, Bethells and Te Henga) with site-specific management plans that set out the type, scale and location of activities and development that may take place on those properties.</p>
OUTCOME 10	A WELL CONNECTED AREA WITH ADEQUATE TELECOMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
Key actions	<p>10.1 Advocate for appropriate telecommunication services and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fibre optic cable extension to Te Henga (Bethells Beach) for improved broadband services • community consultation to be undertaken across the area by telecommunication companies for any proposal to install new cellular/wireless network infrastructure • access to emergency telecommunication services at the beach.
	<p>10.2 Promote and advocate for viable transport options that reduce reliance on the private car, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carpooling • continued bus service between Waitākere Station and Swanson Station • maintaining the capability of Swanson/Waitākere rail line for potential future extension of the train service to Huapai • options for community-based transport.
OUTCOME 11	A COMMUNITY WITH TOOLS TO COMMUNICATE AND NETWORK EFFECTIVELY ACROSS THE AREA AND ENGAGE WITH ITS YOUTH AND CHILDREN
Key actions	<p>11.1 Provide advice and support if and as required to strengthen leadership skills and the capacity of local residents engaged in community led action.</p>
	<p>11.2 Organise annual community events, such as the Te Henga/Bethells Beach Community Day.</p>
	<p>11.3 Maintain community networking and information resources, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a website with access to information of relevance to the community • community social media sites for sharing information, trading goods, discussing local issues.
	<p>11.4 Implement and maintain a Community Response Plan for emergency management.</p>

OUTCOME 12	THE COMMUNITY AND IWI NURTURE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS AND COOPERATE TO EXERCISE KAITIAKITANGA AND STEWARDSHIP OF THE AREA
Key actions	12.1 Use Community Day, local events and local projects as opportunities to strengthen relationships between the community and iwi.
OUTCOME 13	A WELL-INFORMED AND INVOLVED COMMUNITY THAT WORKS PRODUCTIVELY WITH THE COUNCIL KEY ACTIONS
Key actions	13.1 Assess progress in the implementation of the LAP on a regular basis and review the LAP when it is needed.
	13.2 Keep the community website up to date with relevant information from Auckland Council and its CCOs.
	13.3 Continue and enhance collaboration with and support to Waitākere Primary School for programmes that promote sustainability and stewardship, or water safety.



ROADS AND WALKWAYS

OUTCOME 14	OUR WINDING AND NARROW RURAL ROADS BECOME SAFER FOR VEHICLES, PEDESTRIAN, CYCLISTS AND HORSE RIDERS
	14.1 Investigate safety issues along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road.
	14.2 Investigate and implement ways to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists opportunities for forming walkable berms on the roadside along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road.
OUTCOME 15	NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IS DESIGNED IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS WILD AND REMOTE ENVIRONMENT
Key actions	15.1 Advocate for community engagement whenever new roading infrastructure is planned.
	15.2 Advocate for and promote the use of design guides for infrastructure and development.
OUTCOME 16	OFF-ROAD TRACKS CREATE CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE AREA
Key actions	16.1 Investigate opportunities for off-road walkway connections in the valley through consultation with local landowners, taking into particular consideration effects on vegetation and wildlife, and cultural impacts.



Surf board sign, Auckland Council

ECOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEMS

OUTCOME 17	THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE AREA IS ENHANCED. ITS DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS (FORESTS, FARMLAND, RIVER, STREAMS, LAKE, WETLAND, DUNES AND BEACH), LINKED BY ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS, PROVIDE A SANCTUARY FOR ENDANGERED AND RARE NATIVE WILD LIFE.
Key actions	<p>17.1 Increase community knowledge of the ecological values of the area, and of tools for ecological management on private land.</p> <p>17.2 Exercise stewardship of significant ecosystems, continuing practical work aimed at increasing the viability of existing habitats.</p> <p>17.3 Continue to support the initiatives of landowners, volunteers and community groups (such as Waitākere Rivercare, Bethells Beach Care, Habitat Te Henga, Ark in the Park) that enhance the ecology of the area.</p> <p>17.4 Plan and coordinate restoration activities in the catchment to make them more effective.</p> <p>17.5 Organise an annual symposium on the ecology of the area to exchange information on current research, monitoring and best practice.</p> <p>17.6 Promote the monitoring of the ecology by landowners, land-based businesses and community groups.</p>
OUTCOME 18	LOCAL FARMS, ORCHARDS AND FOOD PRODUCING BUSINESSES CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RICH ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND FUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES OF THE AREA.
Key actions	<p>18.1 Promote the sustainable management of the land and landscape in a way that enhances its food-producing and life-sustaining capacity, and also its contribution to people’s wellbeing and creativity.</p> <p>18.2 Encourage and support landowners undertaking land management practices that protect or enhance the ecology of the area.</p>



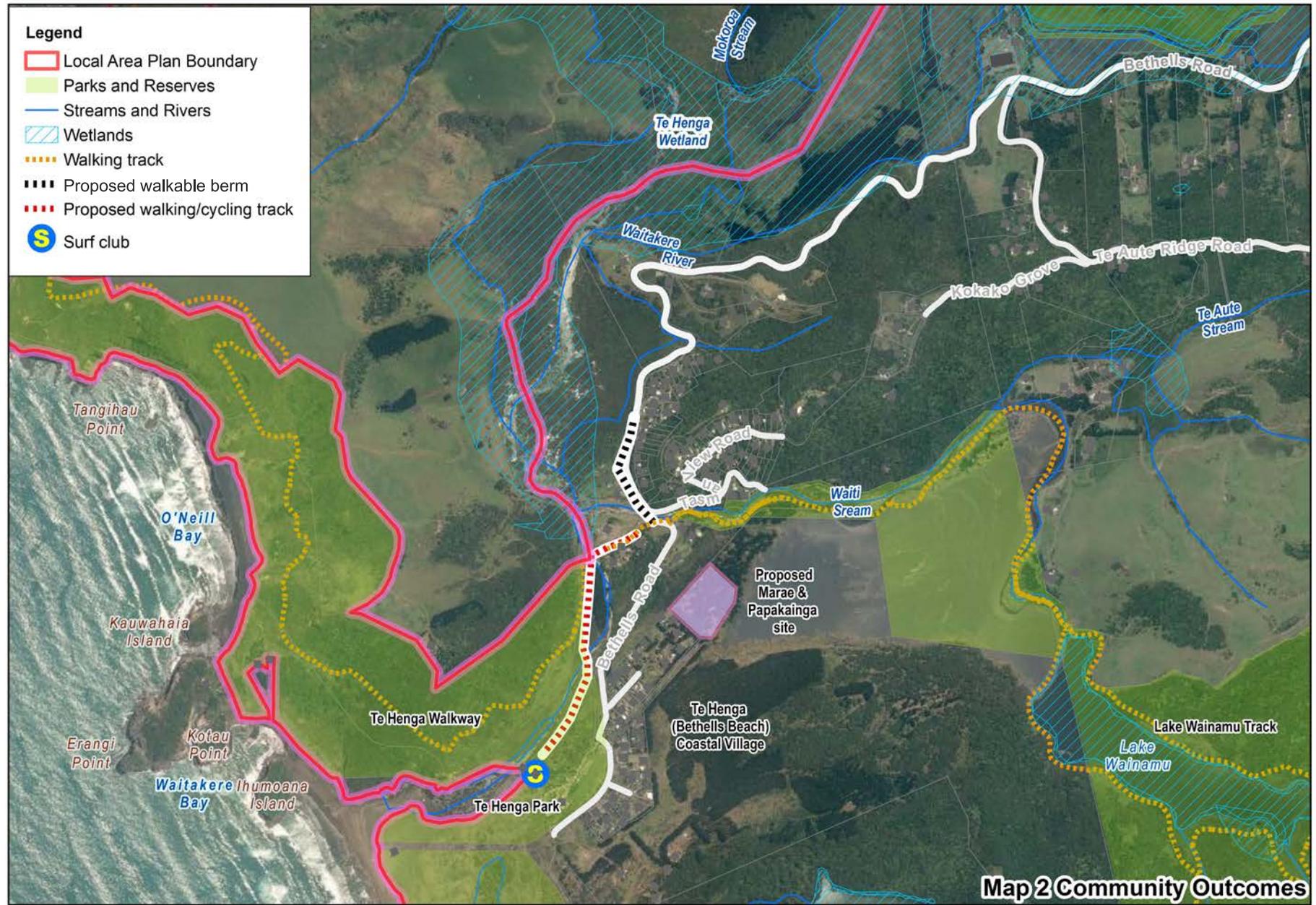
Pied Stilts, Rachel Sheary

Principles for weed management

Weed management within the area’s public spaces, including the road corridor, will be aligned with the objectives in Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy for Parks and Open Spaces 2013, which include:

1. take an integrated approach to weed management and vegetation control
2. ensure best practice in weed management and vegetation control
3. minimise agrichemical use
4. minimise non-target effects of agrichemical use
5. ensure public health and safety
6. protect and enhance the environment
7. empower the community to manage weeds in accordance with the policy
8. deliver weed management which is value for money.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



APPENDIX 1: DETAILED ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION



The tables below provide more detail around the proposed actions, including responsibilities, timeframes and means of implementation. The budget and timing for specific projects will be the responsibility of relevant units of Auckland Council, Council Controlled Organisations, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and community groups.

The tables below indicate possible sources of funding for the different actions as follows:

- **Regional:** the action is part of a regional programme of work, and the decision to allocate this funding would be made by the governing body of Auckland Council (e.g. decisions regarding the Regional Park).
- **Local:** the decision to allocate the funding would be made by the Local Board through the Annual Plan process (e.g. decisions regarding local parks, events or the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Programme).
- **Community:** the action is led by the community and relies on community resources (e.g. through fundraising, pooling of resources, applications for grants to the Local Board (local grant programme), the governing body of Auckland Council (regional grant programme) or other funders).

List of abbreviations:

AC Auckland Council

ACPL Auckland Council Property Limited

AT Auckland Transport

ATEED Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development

CCO Council-Controlled Organisation

DoC Department of Conservation

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 1: People know about the history of the place and its cultural landscape			
<p>1.1 Document the history of the area</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary for the community website • collation of existing resources • recording of local stories • recording of old tramline sites. 	<p>Led by the community and iwi, with support from the Heritage Unit of AC</p> <p>Community and/or local board funding</p>	<p>Some actions under way</p>	<p>A historical summary is under development on the community website.</p> <p>Some initiatives may involve local historians, knowledgeable members of the community, iwi, West Auckland Historical Society, West Auckland Research Centre, Waitākere Ranges Protection Society (oral history project).</p> <p>Mary Woodward’s The Landscape of My Heart is a great source of information on the early European settlement and recent history of the area.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 3 for a short list of existing references on the history of the area.</p>
<p>1.2 Provide information on, and interpretation of the Māori cultural landscape and the European history of the area</p> <p>See also related action #5.2 in Visitor Management and Parks</p>	<p>Led by iwi, Local and Sports Parks and Regional and Specialist Parks unit of AC</p> <p>Local board funding (within Te Henga Park), regional funding (within Regional Park)</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the Māori cultural landscape of the area. • Install a sheltered information board, designed and located to be low key and fit in with the area. Include interpretation of Māori cultural landscape (e.g. significant pā and kāinga sites) and European history of the area (e.g. farming families, flax milling, logging): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - further consultation is required to determine the design and location of the structure, and content of the information - funding is required to design and construct the information board. • Provide interpretation of sites of significance to Māori along the Hillary Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - further consultation required with iwi, AC and DoC - need to consider the best media to present the information - pou whenua, accompanied by interpretation on-site, are currently installed at the following locations on the Hillary Trail: Arataki Visitor Centre, Karamatura, Whatipu, Karekare, Te Ahua Point, Lion Rock, Cascade Kauri, Lake Wainamu.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 2: Wahi tapu, archaeological sites and other taonga are adequately and proactively protected			
2.1 Implement archaeological surveys, site management plans and monitoring for selected cultural heritage sites, as part of a Heritage Area-wide programme	Led by Heritage Unit of AC in collaboration with iwi and landowners Local board funding	underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of monitoring work under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Programme. The desk top review of recorded cultural heritage sites in the Heritage Area was completed in November 2014.
Outcome 3: The Māori and European heritage of the area is interpreted and celebrated			
3.1 Celebrate Te Kawerau ā Maki's relationship with the area and its community	Led by iwi, in collaboration with community Local board, iwi and/or other funding (to be identified)	1-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erect a pou whenua in the vicinity of the beach entrance or Te Henga walkway (requires further consultation with iwi, the community and Friends of Arataki). Progress the marae and papakainga project.
3.2 Celebrate people's cultural and spiritual connection to the area and raise awareness of the natural cycles in the valley	Led by the community in collaboration with iwi Community resources	1-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This could take the form of events, talks and walks targeted at different age groups. Could include for example migrations of eel and fish, and movements of birds, bats and insects.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND PARKS

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 4: The area remains a wild, remote place, home to a hospitable community			
4.1 Advocate for the area not to be actively promoted by the Council or its CCOs as a tourism destination because of its environmental sensitivity and infrastructure constraints	Led by the Local Board, in collaboration with the community	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy role of the Local Board.
4.2 Enable landowners to offer accommodation options to suit a range of budgets and visitors including trampers on the Hillary Trail while managing the effects on the environment	Led by individual businesses offering accommodation close to the Hillary Trail and by Regional and Specialist Parks unit of AC Regional funding (within the Regional Park)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of accommodation options is already available, including self contained holiday cottage accommodation, glamping sites, bed and breakfasts, retreats, function facilities • Accommodation options in the area may be listed on the Hillary Trail webpage and Facebook page of Auckland Council, contact Regional and Specialist Parks regionalparks@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz • In accordance with the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010, a campground will be investigated in the area to provide a low-cost, low impact accommodation option for trampers (see Policy 109d in the Regional Parks Management Plan: Investigation and potential development of a campground in the Bethells/Te Henga area).
Outcome 5: Visitors recognise and respect the unique natural features of the area, and places treasured by the local community and iwi			
5.1 Review provisions for dog walking at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) to protect wildlife and accommodate visitors and dog owners' needs	Led by Social Policy and Bylaws unit of AC, in collaboration with Local and Sports Parks unit of AC Regional operational funding. Local board funding may be required if additional signage or educational material is required	Under way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage and educate people about the rules.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
<p>5.2 Improve visitor information at the beach and other key areas</p> <p>See also related action #1.2 in Cultural Heritage.</p>	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks unit and Regional and Specialist Parks unit of AC</p> <p>Local Parks capital funding within Te Henga Park, regional funding within the Regional Park</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly an information board in the vicinity of the beach entrance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designed and located to be low key and fit in with the area with essential information on the natural and cultural heritage of the area, dog access rules, safety messages - combining all information into one area so that there is no need for other signs at the beach entrance. However stand-alone water safety signs that comply with standards need to be retained - involving local people and iwi in the design and making whenever practical - implementation would require a decision by the Local Board through the annual plan process. • Place additional way-finding markers to direct people along the Hillary Trail only if/where necessary to keep people on the right track, away from sensitive environment and private property (e.g. around Lake Wainamu, near Roberts' farm). • Place appropriate, low key signage at Waitoru Reserve. • Place appropriate, low-key signage in appropriate places to indicate the way to the beach from the end of Bethells Road. • Name the local rivers and streams at the road bridges • Minimise signage elsewhere. Look for other ways for interpretation, e.g. a map of the area at the beach, on the website. Any signage has to be low-key, unobtrusive.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 6: The community contributes to making the area safe and welcoming			
<p>6.1 Involve people in the local community in the delivery of local services whenever practicable, including in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the design and making of park or road infrastructure (e.g. signs, seating, play elements) if and when these are necessary the provision and maintenance of local services (including the Summer Ranger service). 	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks, Regional and Specialist Parks, Auckland Transport</p> <p>Linked to actions described in other sections</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to Auckland Council and Auckland Transport's procurement procedures. Subject to regulatory requirements for some signage (e.g. water safety signs or some road signs).
<p>6.2 Plan and implement actions to address visitor management issues and monitor visitor impact on the area in collaboration with local residents and businesses, parks rangers, Bethells Valley Rural Fire Force, NZ Police and Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Club</p>	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks and Regional Parks units of AC in collaboration with local stakeholders, NZ Police, Surf Life Saving Club, Rural Fire Force and Auckland Transport</p> <p>AC and AT staff, local residents and stakeholders</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Operation Speedo to improve safety and security in the summer period. Consider introducing patrols by the NZ Police to the Lake Wainamu area Organise an annual meeting of stakeholders to plan actions before, and debrief after the summer season Monitor operational issues, incidents, traffic issues and how they are resolved, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unsafe, illegal or inappropriate activities (e.g. incidents caused by alcohol use, use of water slides with water pumps or motorised vehicle at Lake Wainamu or at the beach, freedom camping, dangerous or disruptive driving behaviour, unauthorised fireworks on public land etc) enforcement of dog access rules enforcement of parking restrictions. Place information on whom to contact for safety concerns or reporting incidents on the community web-site and the visitor information board.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 7: Local parks cater for the social and recreational needs of the community, including its children and young people, while remaining low key and maintaining the rural and natural character of the area			
7.1 Review the Concept Plan for Te Henga Park, considering options for new planting and a natural playscape, such as children and youth play facilities made with natural materials, using existing natural features and designed to fit in with area, within the existing community 'green' at the northern end of Te Henga Park.	Led by Local and Sports Parks unit of AC or by the community Local Parks funding (play facilities currently unfunded in LTP). Possibly community resources (e.g. for planting)	1-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further consultation with community, including children and youth is required on the needs for play facilities, location and design. • Strong support for new planting, regeneration, weed management, wildlife monitoring. • The reviewed Concept Plan would require approval by the Local Board. • Pruning of vegetation in the parking area is planned in 2015 to improve safety.
7.2 Develop the site of the Waitākere Quarry as a reserve, returning most of the land to native vegetation and wetland, providing walking tracks and allowing for other appropriate uses	Led by ACPL and Local and Sports Parks unit of AC Revegetation and walking tracks funded by the quarry operator, Local Parks capital funding required for any additional development (currently unfunded in the LTP)	2015-2017 (revegetation of the site and walking tracks)	

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 8: Public services are maintained to an adequate level and are sufficiently flexible to adapt to the fluctuating visitor demand. New infrastructure is designed in harmony with this wild and remote environment			
<p>8.1 Implement, monitor and review a package of measures to manage peak visitor demand</p> <p>See also related action #14.1 in Roads and Walkways</p>	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks and Regional Parks units of AC and AT, in collaboration with Rural Fire Brigade</p> <p>Local Parks operational (within Te Henga Park), regional Parks operational funding (within the Regional Park), AT operational funding (within the road corridor)</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the operation of existing areas of car-parking. • Encourage visitors to turn away when the car parks are full on busy days. • When considering new infrastructure to meet increasing visitor demand, Auckland Council and its CCOs will collaborate with local stakeholders to consider all possible solutions and monitor visitor impact. • Parking management measures on Bethells Road are being trialled by Auckland Transport in 2015 (no-parking lines between Lake Wainamu car-park and the beach). • Maintenance work is regularly undertaken by Local and Sports Parks unit on the beach car-parking. • The local ranger may be tasked with some traffic management measures (e.g. placing sandwich boards to indicate over-flow car parking areas and placing traffic cones during peak visitor times). • Actions that need to be investigated further: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temporary signs placed at the intersections of Scenic Drive/Te Henga Road, Waitākere Road/Bethells Road or Te Henga Road/Bethells Road - a web-based application to inform people of parking conditions.
<p>8.2 Continue the ranger service to manage operational issues at the beach, at Lake Wainamu, within other parts of the Regional Park and in the future reserve on the former Waitākere Quarry site</p>	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks and Regional and Specialist Parks unit of AC</p> <p>Local and Regional Parks operational funding</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2014/15, the local ranger's role included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring that parks' services at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and Lake Wainamu continue to be provided at an adequate level during peak visitor times. This includes monitoring the water level in the toilet's sanitary water tank to ensure it is replenished in time, checking that the toilets are operating properly and that the rubbish is promptly collected. - educating people about parks' bylaws and policies, including rules around dog access at Lake Wainamu and the beach, use of vehicles and machinery, etc - liaising with the regional parks' rangers and the Police if/when there are enforcement issues with the public.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
<p>Outcome 8: Public services are maintained to an adequate level and are sufficiently flexible to adapt to the fluctuating visitor demand. New infrastructure is designed in harmony with this wild and remote environment.</p>			
<p>8.2 Continue the ranger service to manage operational issues at the beach, at Lake Wainamu and within other parts of the Regional Park (continued)</p>	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks and Regional and Specialist Parks unit of AC Local and Regional Parks operational funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping with traffic management - participating in Operation Speedo with the Rural Fire brigade, the Surf Life Saving Club, the Police and Regional Parks rangers. • Regional park rangers attend to issues in the regional park and work in cooperation with the local ranger. • Monitor visitor management issues and extend the ranger service if required and if resources are available.
<p>8.3 Improve waste management services at the beach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a recycling facility at the beach. • Manage rubbish bins at the beach so there is enough capacity on busy days. 	<p>Led by Local and Sports Parks unit of AC in collaboration with Bethells Café owners Local Parks operational funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial of a recycling bin near the café operation.
<p>8.4 Investigate the need for water safety facilities at Lake Wainamu</p>	<p>Led by Bethells Surf Life Saving Club and community in collaboration with Local and Regional Parks units Regional funding</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include: emergency communication equipment, flotation device. The need for such facilities needs to be further discussed with the Surf Club and Local and Regional Parks rangers. • Any structure (if needed) has to be with minimal visual impact. • May require funding support.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 9: A hub of low key economic activity, that includes small local businesses, farming, food production, filming, arts and creative industries			
<p>9.1 Enable low-key economic activities while managing their effects on the environment, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. promote sustainable farming and food production practices b. help showcase the creative talent of local artists and grow the market for local art work c. support managed access to filming locations in the area d. promote business networking and provide access to business support, services and advice. 	<p>Planning and resource consent led by Auckland Council, implemented by local businesses, local artists, AC Art and Events teams, Film Auckland, ATEED</p> <p>Mainly local board operational funding, and community funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partly enabled through rules in the Operative Auckland Council District Plan (Waitākere Section) or the Unitary Plan when it become operative. • The community website can be a vehicle for information and promotion. It includes information on local businesses, visit tehengabethells.co.nz for more details. <p>In relation to (a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to linked action 18.1 in Ecology and Ecosystems. • Enable the sale of produce from properties. • Organise a local farmer market if there is sufficient interest. <p>In relation to (b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate Open Art Studio events. • Support Community Day pop-up gallery. <p>In relation to (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to inform the community of filming activities in the area that may impact on people, e.g. noise, heavy traffic or access to the beach. For information on the approval process and code of conduct for filming, refer to the Auckland Film Protocol on aucklandcouncil.govt.nz • A Dotterel Protection Framework for the foreshore area of the beach is used to manage the impact of vehicle and other activities on dotterels. <p>In relation to (d):</p> <p>For information on business support services from ATEED, visit aucklandnz.com</p>

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 9: A hub of low key economic activity, that includes small local businesses, farming, food production, filming, arts and creative industries			
9.2 Enable a range of economic activities within the three large properties in the area (namely Wainamu, Bethells and Te Henga) with site-specific plans that set out the type, scale and location of activities and development that may take place on those properties	Planning and resource consent process led by Auckland Council. Implementation led by the owners of the large properties	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented through provisions for the Large Property Management Areas in the Operative Auckland Council District Plan (Waitākere Section) and the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan.
Outcome 10: An area that is well connected with adequate telecommunication and transport infrastructure			
10.1 Advocate for appropriate telecommunication services and in particular: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> fibre optic cable extension to Te Henga (Bethells Beach) for improved broadband services access to emergency telecommunication services at the beach community consultation to be undertaken across the area by telecommunication companies for any proposal to install new cellular/wireless network infrastructure. 	Led by the community, with support from Local Board. Economic Development Unit of AC advising on broadband improvement options Community, local board members, and council staff time	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy work with telecommunication companies and New Zealand government. In relation to (a): For more information, contact the Broadband Improvement Lobby Group, visit tehengabethells.co.nz for details.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
<p>10.2 Promote and advocate for viable transport options that reduce reliance on the private car, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. car-pooling b. continued bus service between Waitākere Station and Swanson Station c. maintaining capability of Swanson/ Waitākere rail line for potential future extension of the train service to Huapai. d. options for a community-based transport. 	<p>Led by the community and Local Board</p> <p>Community funding (e.g. for preparing a business case if required)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>In relation to (a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community website has a dedicated page to facilitate car-pooling • advocacy to Auckland Transport for dedicated car-pooling spaces at the Swanson park-and-ride. <p>In relation to (b) and (c):</p> <p>The new network plan for West Auckland shows a connector bus service between Waitākere Station and Swanson to replace the train service. A connector service is "At least every 30 minutes, 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week. Generally 20 minutes at peak. Lower frequencies early morning and evenings."</p> <p>For more details on the new network, visit at.govt.nz</p> <p>In relation to (d):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a shuttle service for residents and visitors between Bethells Beach and Swanson station - use of school buses by residents for transport between Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and Waitākere or Swanson in morning and afternoon. • A business case is required before a community-based scheme is considered by AT for funding support. • The community may need funding support to prepare a business case. • Further consultation with families and whanau of children using the school bus and the school bus operator would be required to gauge support for the school bus option. Advocacy to Ministry of Education and AT would also be required.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 11: A community with tools to communicate and network effectively across the area and engage with its youth and children			
11.1 Provide advice and support if and as required to strengthen leadership skills and the capacity of local residents engaged in community led action.	Led by the community, with support from Community Empowerment unit of AC if required	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and funding available through Neighbourhood Development Programme supported by the Local Board.
11.2 Organise annual community events, such as the Te Henga/Bethells Beach Community Day.	Led by the community, with support from Events and Local and Sports Parks Unit of AC Community resources, Local Board funding for events	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise administration requirements and fees for regular events.
11.3 Maintain community networking and information resources, including: a. website with access to information of relevance to the community b. community social media sites for sharing information, trading goods, discussing local issues.	Led by the community Community resources	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community website administrated by local volunteers has been in operation since October 2014. Visit tehengabethells.co.nz • The Bethells Bongo and Bethells Talking Sticks Facebook pages, administrated by local volunteers, are also in operation.
11.4 Implement and maintain a Community Response Plan for emergency management	Led by the community, with support from AC Civil Defence Community resources	Under way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preparation of a Community Response Plan started in August 2014, led by local volunteers.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 12: The community and iwi nurture good relationships and cooperate to exercise kaitiakitanga and stewardship of the area			
12.1 Use Community Day, local events and local projects as opportunities to strengthen relationships between the community and iwi	Led by the community and iwi Community and iwi resources	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unveiling of the Lake Wainamu pou and release of the pateke at Te Henga wetland have been opportunities for iwi and the community to celebrate their mutual connection to the area in 2014 and 2015. Facilitated and supported by AC as required.
Outcome 13: A well-informed and involved community that works productively with the council			
13.1 Assess progress in the implementation of the LAP on a regular basis and review the LAP when it is needed	Led by the Local Board, in collaboration with the community Council staff resources	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is documented in an annual progress report to the Local Board on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area programme and the 5-yearly monitoring report for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.
13.2 Keep the community website up to date with relevant information from Auckland Council and its CCOs	Led by the community, in collaboration with AC, AT, ATEED and Watercare Community and council staff resources	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community website features a dedicated webpage for council-related information, with information on the LAP and other council consultations relevant to the area. Requires good communication between Auckland Council and its CCOs, and the community website administrators.
13.3 Continue and enhance collaboration with and support to Waitākere Primary School for programmes that promote sustainability and stewardship, or water safety	Led by the community, with support from Environmental Services Unit of AC, Waicare, Ecomatters Regional operational or capital funding	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some programmes are already in place: Trees for Survival, Enviroschool programmes at Waitākere Primary School, Learning Through Experience programme at Arataki Visitor Centre and Cascade Kauri. The Facility Partnership Fund provides financial support to schools and not-for-profit organisations undertaking asset development work, or a feasibility study for a facility. This could be considered for upgrades of the school pool.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 14: Our winding and narrow rural roads become safer for vehicles, pedestrian, cyclists and horse riders			
14.1 Investigate safety issues along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road	Local Board advocacy, together with community and Auckland Transport AT AT capital and operational funding (Road corridor operations and maintenance)	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage parking near Lake Wainamu and Te Henga (Bethells Beach) so that safe vehicle and pedestrian access is maintained at all times along Bethells Road. • Request for investigation of safety issues to AT through the Local Board. The investigation should include consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intersections of Bethells Road with its side roads: investigate ways to improve sightlines, reduce speed and/or raise awareness along Bethells Road. Intersections which have been identified as presenting safety problems along Bethells Road include: Te Aute Ridge Road (East and West), Long Road, Falls Road, Erangi Place and Tasman View Road - chevron signs at Miti Point: visual impact on some people (blinding) at night - visibility at Waiti Bridge (should the giveaway sign be moved to the other side of the bridge, or the handrail design rectified?) - signage and visibility when approaching the bridges near Pae-o-te-Rangi - double yellow lines (changes required in some portions, inconsistent use) - arrow markings to encourage people to “stick to their side” - pedestrian crossing of Bethells Road at Mosquito Lane.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
14.1 Investigate safety issues along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road (continued)	Led or advocated by the Local Board, together with community AT capital and operational funding (Road corridor operations and maintenance)	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - portions of Bethells Road near the wetland and of Tasman View Road where subsidence is creating a safety issue - additional pull over areas to avoid vehicles overtaking. • Other options which may be investigated include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - placing signs (designed by local residents if possible, such as the 'Free Range Kids' surf board) along the road to acknowledge other road users: pedestrians, horses and cyclists. Minimise the number of signs, only if considered necessary for safety and designed to fit in with the area and contribute to its character - informing drivers of school bus timetable - the Local Board may advocate for reducing the speed limit for the whole length of Te Henga Road and Bethells Road (70km/h).
14.2 Investigate and implement ways to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists	Led or advocated by the Local Board, together with community and AT AT Community Transport or Local Board transport funding (currently unfunded in LTP) or community funding and resources	A long term project that may start from 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate areas where road width, surfacing and line markings may be changed to provide safer cycling on the shoulder along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road. As a priority, consider uphill and windy sections of the road. • Form walking tracks along the road corridor along Bethells Road and Te Henga Road. • As a priority, form a walkable berm between Mosquito Lane and Waiti Bridge. • Continue consultation on ways to implement this action and to develop appropriate design. • Need to ensure berms are not be used for parking.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 15: New infrastructure is designed in the context of this wild and remote environment			
15.1 Advocate for community engagement whenever new roading infrastructure is planned	Led by the Local Board	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auckland Transport’s community engagement when new projects are investigated and designed.
15.2 Advocate for and promote the use of design guides for infrastructure and development	Led by the Local Board	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For access to design guides for development in the rural foothills and bush-clad sections of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area, visit Auckland Council web-site.
Outcome 16: Off-road tracks create connections across the area			
16.1 Investigate opportunities for off-road walkway connections in the valley through consultation with local landowners, taking into particular consideration effects on vegetation and wildlife, and cultural impacts:	Investigation led by the community, with technical support from AC Local operational funding for investigation, capital funding for implementation (currently unfunded in LTP) or community funding	1-3 years (Waiti Bridge to the beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate a walkway from Waiti Bridge to the beach as a priority, in consultation with adjacent landowners, iwi and DoC, taking into account potential impacts on cultural heritage and environmental values. • Other off-road walkways could be considered in the future where there is no feasible option for walkable berms along Bethells Road, to link Te Aute Ridge to the beach, or along parts of the Waitākere River/Te Henga wetland. These may be developed on public land, or through agreements with private land owners (e.g. in the form of land purchases or easements). • The approval of affected landowners and iwi would be required for any walkway proposal on private or Maori land. • Potential effects on wildlife in the wetland would need to be investigated for any proposal for a walkway on the edge of the wetland.

ECOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 17: The biodiversity of the area is enhanced. Its different ecosystems (forests, farmland, river, streams, lake, wetland, dunes and beach), linked by ecological corridors, provide a sanctuary for endangered and rare native wild life			
<p>17.1 Increase community knowledge of the ecological values of the area, and of tools for ecological management on private land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raise awareness of the positive function of existing ecosystems as well as of rare and endangered species, environmental weeds, animal pests and kauri dieback disease investigate, document and raise awareness of good practices of sustainable land management and ecological restoration (through community and other websites, workshops, council and local resource people, Waitākere Primary School). 	<p>Led by skilled local people involved in sustainable land management and ecological restoration, Royal Forest and Bird Society, Department of Conservation, AC Biodiversity, Biosecurity, Land and Water Management and Environmental Partnerships units</p> <p>Regional and local operational funding, community resources</p>	<p>2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will include information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rare species, such as little blue penguins, Maui dolphins, eels, seabird nesting colonies, bittern and reintroduced species such as pateke water quality issues in the lagoon, river and lakes and ways to minimise pollution from identified sources Ark in the Park and other local ecological restoration initiatives. Education material and advice for residents and land owners to manage weeds in accordance with the Auckland Council Weed Management Policy 2013, including minimising agrichemical use. Link to Waitākere Ranges Conservation Network and advocacy work of the Kauri Dieback Coordinator for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. Consider organising a symposium on the ecology of the area to exchange information on current research, monitoring and best practice, that would bring together the community, Auckland Council, university researchers, Department of Conservation and other organisations. Use the community website to spread information, scientific papers, etc about the area.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
<p>17.2 Exercise stewardship of significant ecosystems, continuing practical work aimed at increasing the viability of existing habitats</p>	<p>Led by AC Biosecurity, Biodiversity and Water and Land Management units, AT, Watercare, DoC, Royal Forest and Bird Society, land owners and community groups</p> <p>Regional and local operational funding, community resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is done by improving the safety of habitats (e.g. from predation), their health and resilience (e.g. improving habitat structure) and their connectivity (e.g. through extending or linking through ecological corridors). • Advocacy and/or funding of the Local Board to maintain or improve operational by AC, Watercare and AT including, but not restricted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aquatic habitat restoration programme (including pest fish and plant control) at Lake Wainamu - willow and other pest control in Te Henga wetland - pest animal and plant control at Te Henga Park and other parts of Te Henga (Bethells Beach) - pest plant control on the road reserve - animal and pest plant control in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, local reserves and Waitākere Quarry - planting with eco-sourced native species. • Implement measures to address water quality issues in Te Henga lagoon. This includes providing incentives for property owners to improve their septic systems and fence off riparian margins.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 17: The biodiversity of the area is enhanced. Its different ecosystems (forests, farmland, river, streams, lake, wetland, dunes and beach), linked by ecological corridors, provide a sanctuary for endangered and rare native wild life			
17.3 Continue to support the initiatives of landowners, volunteers and community groups (such as Waitākere Rivercare, Bethells Beach Care, Habitat Te Henga, Ark in the Park) that enhance the ecology of the area	Led by Environmental Partnerships, Biodiversity, Biosecurity and Local and Sports Parks units of AC, Royal Forest and Bird Society and other support agencies Community funding, local board and regional operational funding	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented through grants, technical advice, material support and facilitation support • ecological restoration projects and programmes led by community groups and Auckland Council in 2015 are listed in Appendix 2 • advocacy and/or funding of the Local Board to maintain or enhance programmes that promote and support stewardship of the area.
17.4 Plan and coordinate restoration activities in the catchment to make them more effective	Led by community groups or AC Biodiversity unit Community and council staff resources	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website and Facebook are a good medium for informing people on activities and progress • organise a six-monthly or annual meeting of community groups, landowners, land-based businesses, Auckland Council and CCOs to assess the progress made, discuss problems and coordinate future work • connect to the Waitākere Ranges Conservation Network.

Key actions	Who will lead? Who else may be involved? What funding may be available?	When could it start? (subject to resources being available)	Notes on implementation
Outcome 17: The biodiversity of the area is enhanced. Its different ecosystems (forests, farmland, river, streams, lake, wetland, dunes and beach), linked by ecological corridors, provide a sanctuary for endangered and rare native wild life			
17.5 Promote the monitoring of the ecology by landowners, land-based businesses and community groups	Led by community Community resources	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring work is already being undertaken by landowners and volunteers, for example in the Ark in the Park and its buffer zone, Habitat Te Henga trap lines, Steam Hauler Track and Forest Ridge Road areas and in the sand dunes at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) opportunity to involve Waitākere Primary School in water quality monitoring through Waicare programme ecological restoration activities can be recorded through Nature Space website, visit naturespace.org.nz observations of species can be recorded through Nature Watch website, visit naturewatch.org.nz identify and manage the spread of kauri dieback disease, visit kauridieback.co.nz for information communicate results of monitoring by landowners and community groups and the Council to the rest of the community.
Outcome 18: Local farms, orchards and food producing businesses continue to contribute to the rich ecological systems and functional landscapes of the area			
18.1 Promote the sustainable management of the land and landscape in a way that enhances its food-producing and life-sustaining capacity, and also its contribution to people’s wellbeing and creativity See also related proposed action # 17.1 above and #9.1 in Community and Economic Development	Led by landowners and land-based businesses, with support from AC and other stakeholders Community resources, regional and/or local operational funding	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a guide for sustainable land management, which takes into account the characteristics of the area, gives examples of best practice and links people with skills and knowledge across the area. The community website could be a good vehicle for information.
18.2 Encourage and support landowners undertaking land management practices that protect or enhance the ecology of the area.	Led by landowners with support/incentives from AC Regional operational funding, local operational funding	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some support is already available: Environmental Initiatives Fund, support for fencing of waterways, covenants, technical advice, traps and baits in some areas, environmental stewardship programme, weed bin a policy which may provide alternative incentive tools is being developed by Auckland Council in 2015.

APPENDIX 2: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES BY COMMUNITY GROUPS AND AUCKLAND COUNCIL IN 2015

- **Ark in the Park**, a partnership between Forest and Bird and the Auckland Council. This restoration programme around the Cascade Park area has achieved successful releases of North Island robins, North Island kokako, and whitehead, species that had not been seen in the Waitākere Ranges for more than 100 years. Volunteers carry out the ground work (baiting, trapping, weed removal, planting, bird monitoring etc). A buffer zone has been established adjacent to the project area in the Waitākere Valley to encourage landowners to undertake animal pest control and provide equipment and advice. The project also encourages people around the area to report sightings of rare or unusual birds for monitoring purposes. For more information go to arkinthePark.org.nz.
- **Matuku Reserve**, a 120 hectare forest and wetland reserve on Te Henga Wetland owned and managed by Forest and Bird, has seen a dramatic increase in bird and insect life in recent years thanks to restoration efforts. Volunteers carry out predator control to keep the area free of possums, stoats, ferrets and rats. For more information, go to forestandbird.org.nz.
- **Habitat Te Henga**. A project of Forest and Bird Waitākere Branch working together with private landowners of Te Henga wetland and within a wider perimeter to protect and restore biodiversity. Initiated as a project to enable pateke to be returned to the area by controlling predators to safeguard the duck, the project is expected to benefit many other species from the coast to the upper valley as it merges into the Ark in the Park project. For more information, go to forestandbird.org.nz.
- **Bethells Beach Care**. The purpose of this community project is the ecological restoration of the natural dune vegetation sequences and fauna on the dune system at Te Henga (Bethells Beach). The group is made up of local community volunteers and operating with funding support from the council. The group undertakes planting and maintains the local nursery. For more information and contact details, visit the community web-site on tehengabethells.co.nz.
- **Bethells Beach dotterel protection programme**. This programme, carried out by community volunteers and Auckland Council targets mustelids and rats in the dunes behind the beach and protects breeding birds around Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and O'Neills beach. For more information, contact Auckland Council.
- **Waitākere Rivercare**. This community project aims to replant the riparian margins on public and private land alongside the Waitākere River and its tributaries, using eco-sourced native plants. The group is made up of community volunteers who carry out weeding, planting and running of the local nursery. For more information and contact details, visit the community web-site on tehengabethells.co.nz.
- **Stewardship programme** to support environmental and community objectives that are identified by groups of neighbours. Within this LAP area, groups receive technical and practical support from the Weed Free Trust and can access plants, tools and other equipment to carry out their projects. The programme is supported by the Auckland Council. For more information, contact Auckland Council.

- **Waitākere Quarry Consultative Committee.** This group, with representation from ACPL, Auckland Council, Perry Aggregates, Waitākere Ranges Protection Society, Waitākere Ranges Local Board and local residents meets quarterly to provide management oversight of quarry operations to ensure that the quarry is operated in accordance with the Quarry Management Plan and consent conditions, including quarry restoration work, and to provide feedback from the community on any concerns. For more information, contact Auckland Council
- **Lake Wainamu pest fish control.** This programme led by Auckland Council is in place to manage and monitor pest fish and aquatic species in the lake. Every year, pest fish control is carried out with the help of volunteers and a net has been installed to prevent pest fish migrating from the lake. For more information, contact Auckland Council.
- **Regional Possum Control Programme.** This programme led by Auckland Council has been carried on publicly and privately owned land in the LAP area since 1999 (initiated by the former Auckland Regional Council's – Operation Forest Save). Monitoring indicates that possum numbers have dropped dramatically over this time, while bird numbers have increased significantly. For more information, contact Auckland Council.
- **Watercare eel transfer.** This project is undertaken by Watercare (in accordance with a condition of the Waitākere dam consent) to mitigate the impact of the Waitākere dam on the breeding cycle of eels. It involves the transfer of migrant

adult eels from the Waitākere Reservoir to downstream of the Waitākere Falls, using nets placed within the reservoir, between March and May each year. Migrating eels are released downstream of the Waitākere Falls, while non-migrating eels are released back into the Waitākere Reservoir. For more information, contact Watercare.

- **Harakeke (flax) plantings for cultural purposes.** A site on Pae o te Rangi farmland is cultivated in flax species planted for cultural purposes such as weaving. This site is overseen by Auckland Council staff. For more information, contact Auckland Council.
- **Te Henga Wetland weed control and willow control programmes.** These programmes led by Auckland Council aim to restore the quality of the wetland habitat for birds and fish and to preserve long term flood control in the valley. Work is carried out to control and eradicate environmental weeds, including alligator weed, Mexican water lily, reed sweetgrass, elephant grass, pampas, parrot's feather, royal fern, tradescantia and willow from the Te Henga Wetland and Waitākere River. For more information, contact Auckland Council.

APPENDIX 3: KEY SOURCES OF REFERENCES

The documents listed below provide essential information on the area that was used in the preparation of this LAP, and contain references to research and documents relevant to Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River Valley:

Auckland Council, April 2015: Te Henga (Bethells Beach) and the Waitākere River Valley LAP Background Report.

(revised and updated edition of Bethells/Te Henga/Waitākere Valley Local Area Background Report by Jenny Macdonald Consulting, October 2010).

Te Kawerau Iwi Tribal Authority, May 2014: Cultural Values Assessment for Bethells/Te Henga/Waitākere Valley Local Area Plan.

Mary Woodward, 2004: The Landscape of My Heart.



Te Henga (Bethells Beach) Surf tower at sunset – Valerie Clarke

ISBN 978-0-908320-16-5 (print)
ISBN 978-0-908320-17-2 (online)

The information and analysis in this report were provided by various sources. Contents are for information only and are subject to change. They are not suitable for commercial judgement or professional advice. Auckland Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any loss or damage resulting from reliance on, or the use of information that this report contains.
