



**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS** DISTRICT COUNCIL

MARAEKĀKAHO COMMUNITY PLAN

2023 to 2028

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE MAYOR

As Hastings mayor I am very proud to present the 2023 Maraekākaho Community Plan that sets out the community's aspirations for the next five years and beyond.

Maraekākaho is a growing community, supported by a strong rural tradition of pastoral and horticultural activity that's the economic backbone of our district.

Made up of lifestyle blocks, vineyards and wineries, orchards and farms it's located in one of the most picturesque parts of the region and contributes much to our local economy and culture.

It also has a rich history that is captured in significant sites and activities over many years.

One of its biggest strengths is its community that has shown enormous

resilience and commitment to supporting the overall wellbeing of all who live here.

The activity centred around the hall is just one example of how people have come together to celebrate milestones and support a thriving, connected, safe community that is in a strong position to tackle and overcome any future challenges.

Thank you to the community members, elected members, partner agencies and council staff who have been involved in putting this plan together.

I look forward to seeing the realisation of the aspirations that have been captured as everyone works together for the future of Maraekākaho.



Kind regards

Sandra Hazlehurst
Mayor



FROM FOCUS MKK

This Maraekākaho Community Plan has been drawn up after Focus Maraekākaho (Focus MKK) collated information gathered from public meetings, online surveys and written submissions. This plan gives us a broad template to put into practice the ideas that our community believes to be important. Over the last five years Focus MKK has demonstrated the ability to implement projects which enhance our community. You will have noticed the planting carried out through the village and the development of cycle and walking tracks along the river, to mention two very successful initiatives Focus MKK has undertaken.

The 2023 committee thanks past committees for the projects that have been completed. We assure the Maraekākaho community that this

committee is committed to sustaining these past projects. Focus MKK will continue to work to advocate for our community and carry on with the great work of the past five years as we implement a number of new projects.

We rely on the Maraekākaho community to support Focus MKK projects – this support has always been a hallmark of our district. We look forward to working with you over the next five years. Every year our committee is held to account as we measure and evaluate the progress we have made in fulfilling the community plan, and we will regularly report back to you.



Focus MKK would like to thank the Hastings District Council for the guidance and expertise they have provided to our group. The ongoing support from Council and our community is vital. To that end if you believe that you could play a part in the community work undertaken by Focus MKK, do make yourselves known to our committee members.



Mairi Fitzsimons
Chairperson,
Focus MKK.

BRINGING OUR PLAN TOGETHER



The 2023–28 Maraeākāho Community Plan has been developed under the guidance of FocusMKK through broad community engagement, which has included online and hard copy community surveys, workshops, a focus group with local school children and submissions.

This plan builds on the initiatives that were identified in the 2017–2022 Maraeākāho Community Plan and sets out new and emerging projects.



FOCUS
mkk

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

ACHIEVING SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS

This plan responds to the key priorities identified by the community with projects and proposed funding streams, including from Hastings District Council.

The plan delivery will be overseen by community representatives including Focus MKK, at the same time encouraging all community members to get involved with any or all of the projects. Progress will be monitored and reviewed at least annually to ensure projects are on track.

If new activities are identified, they may be included in Hasting District Council's (or other stakeholder) Annual and Long Term Planning processes.

This plan also provides a foundation for longer term, 20-year aspirations of the community, which are focused

on protecting existing values as the community and related environment changes. The Hastings District Plan makes reference to Maraekākaho for future rural settlement. It is imperative that any population growth and related housing and land development is well planned and managed, including considering how to provide infrastructure, assets, facilities and services into the community, supported by appropriate zoning. This plan can be used to provide a basis for broader planning and related activities.



PLAN COVERAGE MARA EKĀKAHO COMMUNITY

The geographical coverage of this plan is shown in the map.



OUR COMMUNITY

The name Maraekākaho can be translated as the place of abundance of the kākaho, which is the culm or stem with white feathery plumes that are part of the toetoe. The toetoe is a native plant with long, grassy leaves with a fine edge and saw-like teeth that grows prominently in the region. Local hapū are Ngāti Pōporo and Ngāti Whatuiāpiti.

As a rural community, Maraekākaho plays an important role in the current and ongoing development of the region. There continues to be a focus on agricultural, horticultural, quarrying and forestry industries in the area. The community is growing, with 2018 Census data showing the population as 1,392 – a six per cent increase (or 81 people) since 2013.

As an arterial route, Maraekākaho is a natural hub for outer-lying communities and industries. The community includes lifestyle blocks, vineyards and wineries, orchards, pastoral farms and a range of other small businesses.

In recent years, the hall and surrounds have provided a physical hub for activities in the community.

The village and broader community has a key place in the history of the region, with a number of significant sites still in existence today.

All of these characteristics will be showcased and built on in the projects identified in this plan.





VISION FOR MARA EKĀKAHO

A connected strong rural
community, centred around
a social, environmental and
economic hub which links the
past with the future.

PROJECT PLAN

The priorities have been reviewed and considered in planning and funding plans for HDC, stakeholders, funders and community partners, which has resulted in the following project plan:

PROJECT	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCING/ FUNDING	RESPONSIBILITY
SOCIAL			
<p>1</p> <p>Continue to support the development of the community hub for gatherings, activities and emergency events, utilising the church, hall and other facilities.</p> <p>The hub will host community events, education and training, community organisations' meetings and open days, health and wellbeing sessions, information sessions on farming practises, craft mornings, exercise classes, book club, concerts, community Christmas party, sports club and youth group.</p> <p>The hub will be a meeting point and resource base during emergency situations.</p>	Ongoing	HDC and other stakeholders provide personnel support as required	<p>Lead: Community representatives</p> <p>Community, representatives, Focus MKK, HDC, MKK Hall Trust</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Partner with and promote Neighbourhood Support, including utilising communications technology.</p>	By 30 December 2023	Personnel support as required	<p>Lead: Neighbourhood Support Coordinator</p> <p>HDC, Safer Hastings, Focus MKK</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Support the development of community resilience planning, including through connections with Farmstrong and the successful 2023 MPI Funding Allocation</p>	HDC Resilience Planning Team	Personnel support as required	<p>Lead: HDC</p> <p>Community representatives, Focus MKK, Fire Brigade</p>

PROJECT	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCING/ FUNDING	RESPONSIBILITY
4	Continue to develop community communications, which utilise radio, flyers and social media.	Ongoing	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives, HDC
5	Develop a local phone directory for services and a fridge magnet with key phone numbers.	By 31 October 2023	
6	Utilising key communication channels, identify community representatives to be involved in all key projects to strengthen delivery of projects and support succession planning.	By 31 October 2023	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives, HDC
7	Continue to promote Focus MKK.	Ongoing	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives
8	Continue to develop and enact a community road safety plan, which addresses the condition of the roads, considers a community bus, car sharing, beautification, traffic calming, lower speed limit, burnouts and other anti-social behaviour. Ensure the plan supports the development of community relationships with local business operators that use transport as well as the Police.	By 31 December 2024	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives, HDC, Waka Kotahi, HBRC, Police, Transport Operators


PROJECT	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCING/ FUNDING	RESPONSIBILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL			
9	Finalise the design, production and installation of threshold signage at two sites on SH 50 and one site on Kereru Road.	By 30 June 2024	Focus MKK Annual Planning
10	Further develop the limestone footpath to Kereru Road, Aorangi Road, Hawkes Ridge and to the river.	By 30 June 2025	Focus MKK Annual Planning
11	Extend continuation of cycle track from Sileni to Maraekākaho village.	By 30 June 2026	
12	Further develop a relationship with HBRC to eventually lead to the development of a recreational riverside management plan. Plan to include upgrades to existing tracks/paths, develop signage, ongoing maintenance of tracks and plantings, safeguarding of plantings and recreational areas.	By 31 December 2024	
13	Continue to foster relationships between gravel operators and HBRC while acting as a liaison for the community in regards to gravel extraction.	Ongoing	Focus MKK Annual Planning
14	Continue to promote and help to facilitate the Maraekākaho Dark Sky Project.		

PROJECT		TIMEFRAME	RESOURCING/ FUNDING	RESPONSIBILITY
ECONOMIC				
15	Develop relationships with people and organisations who want to assess the potential for community store/ supermarket, cafe, pub and petrol station.	Ongoing	Personnel support as required	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives, HDC, Local business people. Business advisors
16	Work with local business people to build a business network.	By 31 December 2023		

CULTURAL				
17	Support the preservation, enhancement and promotion of heritage structures to preserve local cultural history, including tangata whenua pūrākau.	Ongoing	Focus MKK Annual Planning, Philanthropic organisations	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives, Heritage NZ/Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Local historians
18	Develop and promote community and tangata whenua history, including a site map and heritage trail.	By 30 June 2026		

KEY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS				
19	Focus on the development of key relationships which benefit the community, including hosting community meetings to discuss key issues as necessary, as well as having a presence at community events. Involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police – safety, crime, roading • HDC – roads monitoring • HBRC – environmental issues • Industry operators – eg gravel 		Personnel support as required	Lead: Focus MKK Community representatives

MARAEKĀKAHO INTO THE FUTURE



Public access point for vehicles, walking, horses, bikes and jet boat enthusiasts

Develop a riverside management plan that includes the following:

- A plan to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Maraekakaho river and surrounding areas. This involves increasing accessibility and safety of the reserve for visitors and community members.
- Keeping tracks and paths maintained to ensure safety and accessibility.
- Develop and install signage for entrances, tracks, and features to inform visitors about the history, geography, and significance of the rural community.
- There is the desire to include cycle tracks up stream and downstream to connect with local businesses.
- Development of initiatives to maintain recreational areas such as picnic and boating areas.
- Planting and maintenance of trees and other vegetation to ensure the long-term sustainability of the reserve.

PROJECT PLAN ACCOUNTABILITY



Successful delivery of the projects will be reliant on the council, community and other stakeholders getting involved and working together.

Progress of the projects in the plan will be monitored through meetings between Hastings District Council leadership and community representatives as necessary.

Progress towards achieving this plan will be reviewed by the council and community representatives every year.





**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS** DISTRICT COUNCIL

**TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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