



Rangitāiki Community Board Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Approved November 2024

whakatane.govt.nz










WHAKATĀNE
District Council
Kia Whakatāne au i ahau

Contents

Rangitāiki Community Board Members	3
Introduction – <i>Kupu whakataki</i>	4
Our ward – <i>Tō mātou rohe</i>	4
Map of boundaries – <i>Mahere rohe</i>	5
Our vision – <i>Tō mātou tirohanga</i>	6
Our history – <i>Tō mātou hītori</i>	6
Our direction – <i>Tō mātou ahunga</i>	6
Focus Area 1 - Pou Tuatahi	7
TANGATA ORA - SOCIAL NEEDS & WELL BEING: Vibrant Communities of Rangitāiki	7
Focus Area 2- Pou Tuarua	9
ECONOMIC NEEDS & WELL BEING - PAKIHI ORA : Thriving, well supported local businesses	9
Focus Area 3- Pou Tuatoru	10
ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS & WELL BEING - WHENUA ORA: Potential of Land and Water within our Rangitāiki Ward	10
Focus Area 4- Pou Tuawha	11
CULTURAL NEEDS & WELL BEING - AHUREA ORA: Uniting through opportunities that provide understanding, sharing and learning	11
Focus Area 5- Pou Tuarima	12
DEVELOPMENT - WHAKAPIKI PŪKENGA: Development of the Community Board Elected Members relates across all the focus areas.	12



Rangitāiki Community Board Members

2022-2025	NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS
	<p>Chairperson Leeann Waaka (Ngāpuhi) Edgecumbe E. leeann.waaka76@gmail.com M. 021 674 472</p>
	<p>Deputy Chairperson Ross Gardiner Edgecumbe / Ōtākiri E. rossg.submission@gmail.com M.</p>
	<p>Gavin Dennis – Councillor Matatā E. gavin.dennis@whakatane.govt.nz M. 027 327 0597</p>
	<p>Peter Falwasser (Te Arawa, Tainui, Mataatua) Matatā E. peter.falwasser@gmail.com P. 020 4119 1609</p>
	<p>Heemi Brown (Ngāti Awa, Tuwharetoa) Te Teko E. puarity@gmail.com M. 021 147 4342</p>
	<p>Clive McIndoe Edgecumbe E. M. clivemcindoe@xtra.co.nz</p>
	<p>Peter Flowerday Matatā E. potolyn@xtra.co.nz M. 027 828 8186</p>



Introduction – *Kupu whakataki*

Community boards were created by the local government reforms in 1989 and are designed to bring government closer to communities. As of 2022, there are 110 community boards that operate in both urban and rural areas within local authorities throughout New Zealand. Elected every three years, alongside other esteemed officials, the board members bear the invaluable responsibility of representing and advocating for their local constituents. In entrusting these individuals with their votes, the community has bestowed upon them not only the power to make decisions on their behalf but also the privilege of exercising strong and compassionate community leadership.

The Rangitāiki Community Board is a dedicated and vital part of our local governance structure, with its responsibilities and powers delegated by the Whakatāne District Council. At the heart of our mission is the commitment to making local government more accessible to the residents of the Rangitāiki ward. We take pride in being the voice and advocate for our vibrant community, ensuring that the unique needs and aspirations of our residents are heard and addressed. By championing 'the local' in local government, we strive to create a sense of belonging and empowerment among our constituents. Our board plays a pivotal role in helping the Council navigate the diverse challenges and opportunities present in our communities. Additionally, we work diligently to raise awareness among ratepayers about essential services, pressing issues, and upcoming events that directly impact their lives. Together, we are dedicated to building a stronger and more connected Rangitāiki community.

As detailed in [Clause 52](#) of the Local Government Act 2002, the role of a community board is to:

- a. Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community.
- b. Consider and report on all matters referred to it by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community.
- c. Maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community.
- d. Prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community.
- e. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- f. Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Council.

Our ward – *Tō mātou rohe*

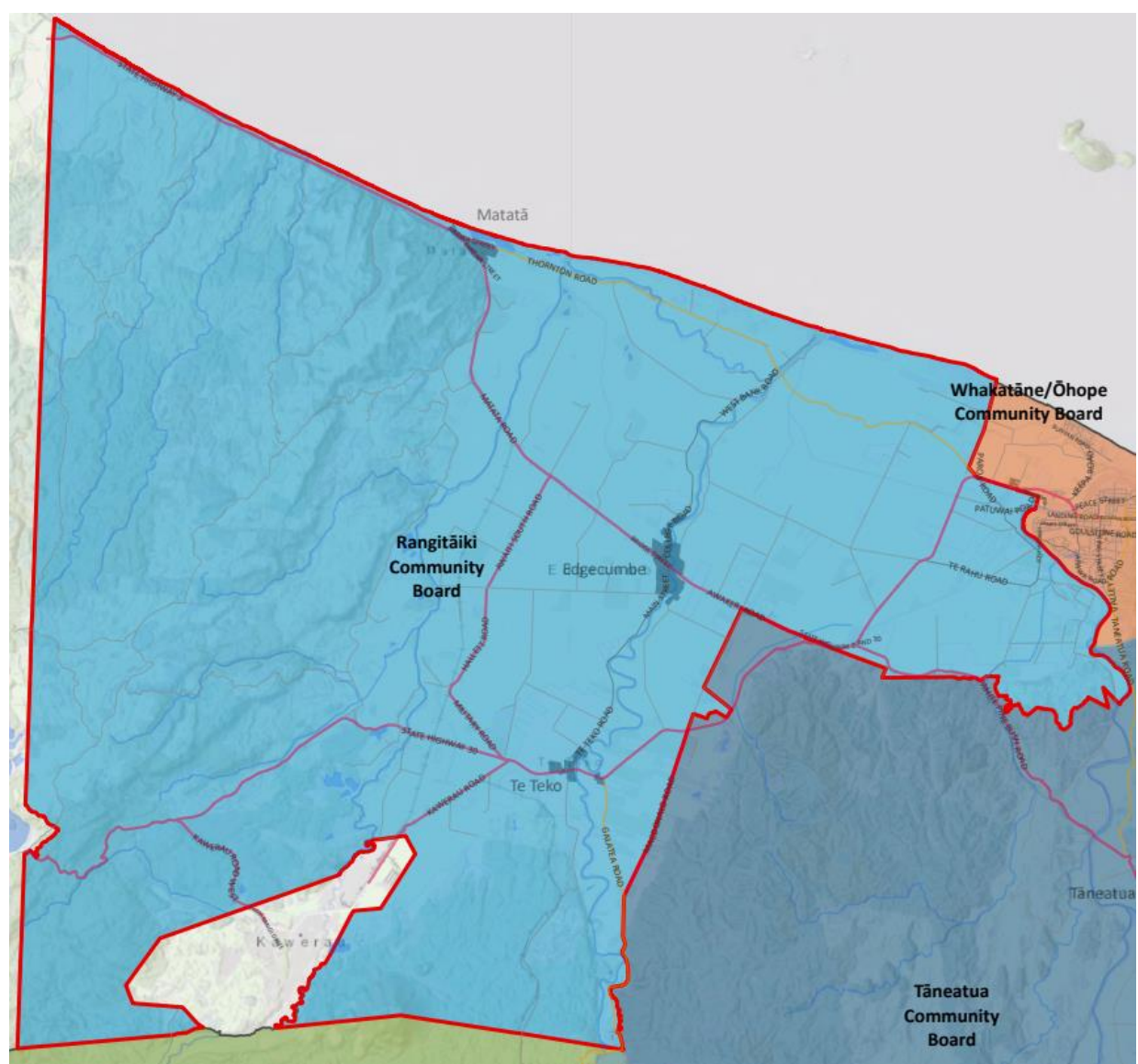
The Rangitāiki Community Board is all about celebrating the unique communities that make our ward so special. Rangitāiki includes Poroporo, Paroa, Awakeri, Te Mahoe, Te Teko, Mapou, Edgecumbe, Manawahe, Matatā, Okorero (Thornton), Onepū, Braemar, Ōtākiri, Awakaponga and Pikowai. Each of these communities has its own character, way of life, and strengths, and together they bring a rich mix of cultures, natural resources, and job opportunities to our area.

Our goal is simple: to respect and embrace what makes each community different. We know that to truly serve the people in our ward, we need to listen to what each community wants and address the specific challenges they face. By doing this, we hope to create a strong sense of unity and make sure everyone feels included and valued across the Rangitāiki ward. We're committed to working together to build a future where every community has the support it needs to thrive.

The Board meets typically every 7 weeks at 5:30 pm on a Wednesday evening.



Map of boundaries – *Mahere rohe*



Our vision – *Tō mātou tirohanga*

"Nā tō tātou whakawhiti i te rā, ka whakatutuki tātou i ngā moemoeā."

"Together, we weave the future we dream of."

Our history – *Tō mātou hītori*

DISCLAIMER: The following information represents the Board's interpretation of the history of the Rangitāiki. It is not definitive and reflects the Board's views only.

The cultural history of Rangitāiki is deeply connected to Ngāti Awa, the tangata whenua (people of the land) of this region. Ngāti Awa's roots here go back centuries. The name "Rangitāiki" itself holds meaning reflecting Ngāti Awa's skills in celestial navigation, guiding their ancestors across the Pacific Ocean. Communities thrived on the fertile lands and abundant waters. Today, Ngāti Awa's traditions, stories, and spiritual ties to the land honour their role as enduring kaitiaki (guardians) of this cherished landscape.

Our direction – *Tō mātou ahunga*

"Whiria te ara o Rangitāiki, ka whakarauika, ka whakawhanaungatanga, ka whakapau kaha."

"Weaving the path of Rangitāiki, we come together, we connect, we strengthen."

In essence, the Rangitāiki strategic plan provides us with the critical guidance needed to align our efforts, resources, and energies, ensuring that our communities dreams and aspirations become a tangible reality, enriching the lives of all who call Rangitāiki home.

Treating the Strategic Plan as a living document promotes transparency and accountability by allowing for regular review and updates, ensuring that progress is tracked, and adjustments are made as needed.



Rangitāiki River - Photo Credit Whakatāne District Council

'Whiria te ara o Rangitāiki, ka whakarauika, ka whakawhanaungatanga, ka whakapau kaha.'

Weaving the path of Rangitāiki, we come together, we connect, we strengthen.

Focus Area 1 - Pou Tuatahi

TANGATA ORA - SOCIAL NEEDS & WELL BEING:

Vibrant Communities of Rangitāiki

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
<p>Active, Healthy and Safe communities</p> <p><i>Support and promote our communities' activities, events.</i></p> <p><i>Identify new opportunities that support the wellbeing and growth of our communities.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Allocate discretionary funds to bolster local community programs, events, and activities. 2) Support the annual National Volunteer Recognition Week to express gratitude towards our community volunteers. 3) Champion and provide support for locally driven events as they emerge. 4) Maintain backing for endeavours and initiatives that foster community readiness and resilience in the face of natural disasters. 5) Actively seek chances to aid during national events within our jurisdiction. 6) Conduct a thorough inquiry into the accessibility and availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across our Rangitāiki communities. 7) Facilitate collaborative project prospects and events through the Combined Community Board, in alignment with our community objectives and strategies. 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 – 2025)</p> <p>AS REQUIRED</p>
<p>Connecting and Communicating with our Communities:</p> <p><i>Through a centralised communication portal tool, we are able to reach all sectors of our communities and keep them well informed and connected</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitate a consultation with WDC Communications personnel to acquire insights and direction on establishing a unified communication hub, incorporating effective strategies for leveraging social media platforms. Monitor content on the RCB Facebook page and provide timely and suitable responses. Ensure centralised administration and uphold uniformity. 2) Explore alternative communication channels present within our communities. This exploration will furnish additional avenues for disseminating information to our communities as needed. 3) Update and monitoring of RCB Social Media 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 (2022 – 2024)</p>



<p>Engaging and representing our communities:</p> <p><i>Connecting and building relationships with each of our communities, to provide an opportunity for our board to share and obtain a greater knowledge and understanding of our community's needs, goals and aspirations</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Organise collaborative board meetings to take place throughout our Rangitāiki Ward within designated localities. 2) Actively interacting with our communities, our objective is to discern their requirements, objectives, and aspirations. This will facilitate us, as a board, in determining how best to provide assistance to our communities. 3) We commit to advocating for our communities by engaging in representation and submitting proposals to both Councils during the Long-Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan deliberations. 4) Collaborate with local communities to assist and promote the development of their individual Community Plans. 5) Facilitate our presence and participation in locally organised community meetings. 6) Enhance member participation in meetings of the Combined Community Board. 7) Enhance community engagement by actively participating in local events and programs, particularly those that contribute to the advancement of our communities' well-being. 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 - 2025)</p>
<p>Supporting and empowering our youth of Rangitāiki</p> <p><i>Through opportunities which empower, flourish and promote youth engagement</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Champion the cause of our community's young population by presenting a proposal to the WDC aimed at formulating a youth strategy. 2) Explore potential avenues for implementing mentoring and leadership initiatives tailored to the needs of our local youth. 3) Recognise, nurture and support emerging leaders within Rangitāiki i.e. sponsorship of Mayoral Youth Awards 	<p>AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE</p>



Rangitāiki River - Photo Credit Whakatāne District Council

‘Whakarongo ki te reo o te whenua, ka kitea te ara whakararuru o Rangitāiki.’
Listen to the voice of the land, and you will find the path to harmonise Rangitāiki.

Focus Area 2- Pou Tuarua

ECONOMIC NEEDS & WELL BEING - PAKIHI ORA :

Thriving, well supported local businesses

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
<p>Economic Growth of our Rural Community</p> <p><i>Supporting, promoting and advocating on behalf of our local businesses</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitate the dissemination of insights from WDC, EPIC, Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce, Toi EDA, Farmers Association, Tourism, and Innovation Industry to bolster our community's enterprises, including initiatives such as the "Buy Local" campaign. 2) Support emerging endeavours that foster innovation in our business sectors. 3) Develop Rangitāiki business contact database 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 – 2025)</p>



Te Waiu o Pukemaire (Braemar Springs) – Photo Credit Whakatāne District Council

‘Ka whakatipu te hua i te whenua, ka whakatipu te haukāinga ki Rangitāiki.’

As the fruit of the land thrives, so too does the prosperity of Rangitāiki.

Focus Area 3- Pou Tuatoru

ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS & WELL BEING - WHENUA ORA:

Potential of Land and Water within our Rangitāiki Ward

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
<p>Environmental Sustainability</p> <p><i>Identify opportunities that support positive use and care of our significant environmental and cultural sites/natural resources – with the aim to protect and retain</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participate in Rangitāiki ward-specific environmental awareness gatherings. 2) Seek opportunities to work in collaboration with BOPRC, DOC, Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitahi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa Rangitāiki Hapū Coalition and other groups to: 3) Foster initiatives that enhance the recognition of the Rangitāiki's important environmental and cultural landmarks and resources. 4) Endorse and support community-driven endeavours and events aimed at connecting, protecting and nurturing Te Taiao (our natural environment) 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022– 2025)</p>
<p>Infrastructure Projects</p> <p><i>Identify and advocate for improvements needed including opportunities that enhance community infrastructure and facilities</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engage in active representation during the Local Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan Submission process. Our focus will be on safeguarding and enhancing our community's natural resources, valuable assets, and facilities. 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 – 2025)</p>



'Missing You' - Photo credit: Corina Niven

“E taura whiri kotahi mai anō te kopunga tae noa ki te pu au”

“From the source to the mouth of the sea, all things are joined together as one”

Focus Area 4- Pou Tuawha

CULTURAL NEEDS & WELL BEING - AHUREA ORA:

Uniting through opportunities that provide understanding, sharing and learning

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
<p>Growing our Cultural Identity</p> <p><i>Through support and active participation in opportunities that help grow our knowledge and understanding of our culturally diverse communities</i></p>	<p>Pursue, advocate for, and endorse initiatives that recognize and commemorate all segments of our varied and multicultural societies through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acknowledging, protecting and celebrating foundational cultural histories and identities of Mana Whenua 2) Recognising, celebrating and protecting culturally significant sites /resources within Rangitāiki. 3) Inclusion into the Aotearoa Reorua program, implementation of bilingual signage and support for tohutō in signage, where appropriate. 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 – 2025)</p>



Te Kupenga Otaramainuku in Te Teko – Sourced from Waatea News

‘He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.’

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

Focus Area 5- Pou Tuarima

DEVELOPMENT - WHAKAPIKI PŪKENGĀ:

Development of the Community Board Elected Members relates across all the focus areas.

OUR OBJECTIVES	OUR ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
<p>Support Development of Board Members</p> <p><i>Support our Board Members to undertake appropriate upskilling and training</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitate collective participation of Board Members in social gatherings/events to foster team cohesion and relationship development. 2) Ensure active presence of Board Members at Zone 2 meetings and LGNZ conferences. 3) Explore options for enhancing the skill sets of interested board members to bolster their effectiveness in fulfilling their roles. 	<p>YEAR 1 / YEAR 2 / YEAR 3 (2022 - 2025)</p>



Reflections on Rangitāiki Awa – Photographer Joelle Walker

"Whāia te mātauranga, me kōkiri koe ki te pae tawhiti."
"Seek knowledge and be prepared to go beyond the distant horizon."