

# AWANUI – BIG RIVER TOWN

*The Nexus of the North*



**Community Development Plan 2008**

**The aim of this plan.**

**In producing this plan, the Working Party is envisaging a revitalisation of the township of Awanui.**

**While this plan acknowledges of the importance Awanui played in the development of the Far North in the past, it is more an expression of the township's potential to play an equally important role in the development of the future.**

**The Working Party who created this plan now invite the community, including all those who contributed and endorsed it, to join its vision and use the plan to shape and direct the development of the area.**

**Working with FNDC and our other partners to action this plan gives Awanui the chance to develop new business's and services in the town, and create a new social 'heart' for the community.**

**Iwi endorsement.**

**"This is a marvellous plan. The people who worked on it need to be congratulated for their tremendous energy and foresight. Everything this Plan presents is highly commendable, and tremendous for Awanui".**  
**Ted Jones, Chairperson, Nga Taonga O Nagai Takoto**

Grateful acknowledgement for use of heritage pictures to Northwood images and Cara Frost

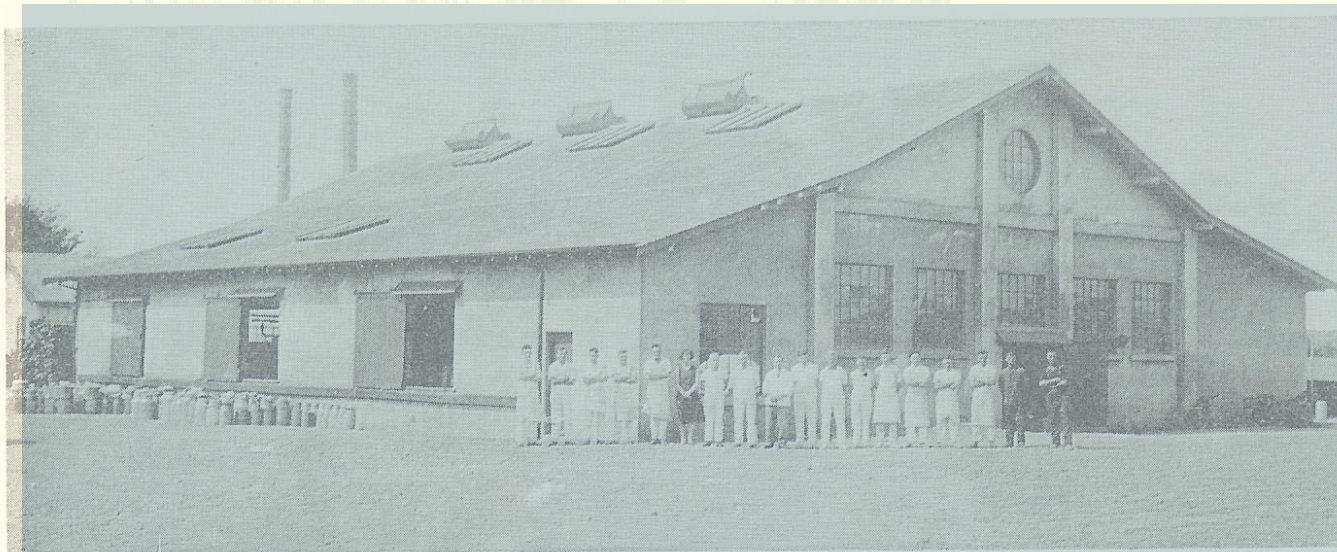
## Introduction:

Early Maori settlement in the area of Awanui was virtually non-existent because the area of the present township was originally a vast wetland. Maori had pathways on the hills to the Southeast, and used the waterways and coastline for travel. There is also the understanding the area was important for food and flax resources.

With the coming of the Pakeha, Awanui began to show development as an important transport hub. Large vessels could navigate the river to the vicinity of the present township, which prompted the building of a wharf, and the beginnings of a trade centre. Goods were able to move beyond Awanui to Kaitaia on smaller vessels which could ply the river as far as the site of Larmer Road, or be transported by bullock carts to the township of Kaitaia (a journey that took an entire day), and settlements to the east (Kareponia) and north (Waipapakauri and Waiharara).

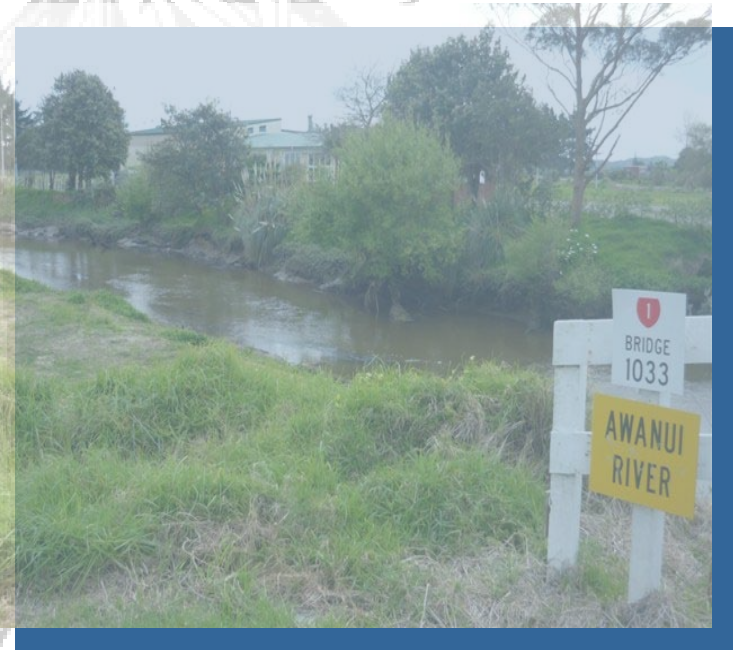


The building of the Dairy Company in 1901 established Awanui as one of the more important towns in the Far North. Milk, gum and flax were traded from this settlement, and most of the goods from the outside entered at the port of Awanui. As roading developed, swamps were drained, houses were built, families raised, and Awanui became a thriving rural town that could boast: a dance hall, a pub, two billiard saloons, a general store, two grocers and two butchers. It also had a fish'n shop, three green grocers, a bakery, a draper and a haberdasher, a Post Office and a picture theatre. The dairy industry, plus a Toheroa Factory at Lake Ngatu, and the flax industry at nearby Kaingaroa, ensured Awanui was a bustling community and an important transport hub for the Far North.



1926 — The new factory on its Awanui site.

Unfortunately, like many rural towns within a short driving distance from a larger centre, Awanui has seen the loss of many of its business's and services. The closure of the Dairy Company in 1971 initiated the decline of Awanui. People started to move away, and the river began to lose its importance for transport. The establishment of the Fertiliser store and wharf at Unahi meant even less goods plied the river. With the loss of vessel traffic the river began to silt up and the banks encroach.



What was once a proud and bustling commercial centre became a cross-roads to somewhere else, a town of boarded up shop fronts and a few struggling business's.

Most of the people, who have worked on this plan, have had a long association with Awanui. They have seen the heyday and have also seen the changes. They *know* that Awanui has had a special role in the development of the Far North and they believe it can do so again. All those who gathered to contribute to this plan, whether old time residents or new arrivals, believe that Awanui has a pivotal role to play in the future sustainable development of the Far North. They are grateful to the Far North District Council for offering the opportunity to the community to engage in this Community Development Plan exercise, and they look forward to working with Council, and others, to turn this vision into reality, over the next 15-20 years.



**Focus Area: Te Awa (The River)**

**Statement: *Awanui has a clean and healthy river that aids and encourages recreational and commercial activity***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Progress Partners</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Upgrade the sewerage systems on river	Kaitaia and Awanui systems overhauled and made much more efficient and 'flood proof'	FNDC, NRC, Government	2013
Open the Awanui 'Loop'	Culvert the blind section of river By Knight's Engineering	Transit, NRC, FNDC	2013
Clear river impediments	Clear sand bars and in-filled sections and dredge river	NRC, Harbour Board	2013
Pontoon	Install floating pontoon near SH bridge near town	FNDC, Community, NRC, Harbour Board	2013
Protected riverbanks	Plant river banks on reserves to reduce erosion	Community, FNDC, NRC	2018
Sites of interest on river	Create wild life 'islands' and sites of historic/cultural interest	Iwi, Community, NRC, FNDC, Landcare Trust	2018
River walkway	Construct board walk and path from town to Kauri Kingdom	Community FNDC	2023
Landings and docks	Construct landings, docks, and stairs along river	Sponsors, Community, NRC, FNDC, NHB	2023

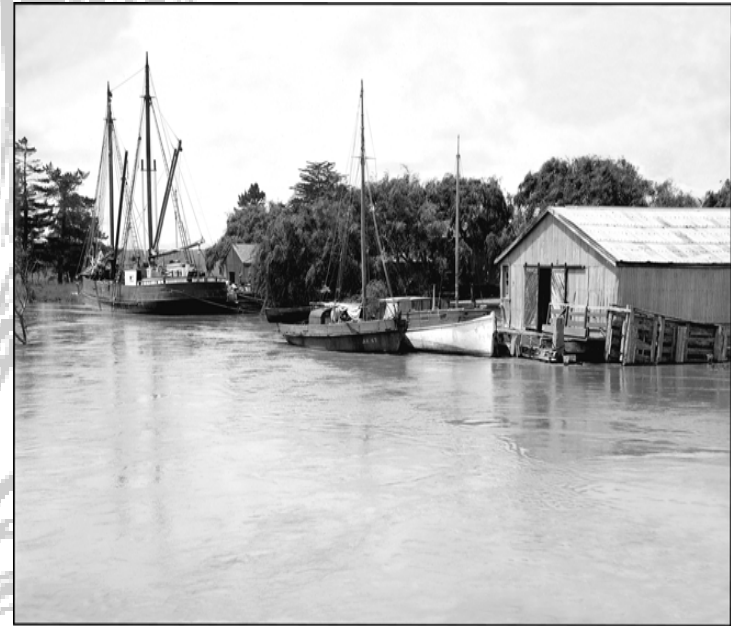
## Focus Area: Infrastructure and Roading

**Statement:** *Awanui is a safe and accessible gateway to the Far North, and has a well functioning infrastructure that supports a thriving and growing community.*

Goal	Key Actions	Key Progress Partners	Timeframe
Residential and commercial growth	Research possibilities to determine sewerage provision	FNDC, Central Government	2013
Water reticulation for township	Feasibility of reticulated system and treatment plant researched	FNDC, NRC	2013
Water reticulation (continued)	Source funding and begin capital works	FNDC, NRC	2018
Street lighting for township	Efficient lighting on all highway entrances to Awanui	Transit NZ, FNDC	2013
Pedestrian crossings	Provide safe crossings on all three State highways within the town limits	Transit NZ, FNDC	2013
Highway signage	Ensure all essential roadside signs on highway approaches are well lit at night	Transit NZ	2013
Rectify sewerage Pond leaks and stop copper and algae contamination	This work to be completed prior to further development in regards to sewerage management control	FNDC, NRC	2013
Traffic Round-about	Construct a raised Traffic Round-about at the SH 1/10/1F junction as per the Charette Plan	Transit NZ, FNDC, Community	2013
Water reticulation system	Central commercial and residential area reticulated	FNDC	2023
Township signage	Uniform, visible and instructive signage throughout Awanui	Transit NZ, FNDC, Community, Business Association	2023



Alternative sewerage treatment	Investigate alternatives to water based disposal systems The town has a well functioning, non-polluting sewerage system	FNDC, NRC, DoC, and Central Government	2023 2023
High level of pedestrian safety	All busy areas have appropriate and safe foot paths	FNDC	2023
Pedestrian foot path development	Construct and maintain suitable paving throughout 50kph zone of town	FNDC, Transit NZ	2023



**Focus Area: Economy**

**Statement: *Awanui has a thriving economy that operates respectfully within its environment***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Progress Partners</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Improve business environment	Affect physical change in the business setting and landscape	KNZB, FNDC Business Association, Property owners	2013
Consolidation of existing business's	Invest in and support existing business's	Awanui and Kaitaia Business Associations	2013
	Integrate business activity through shared resources and facilities	Awanui and Kaitaia Business Associations	2013
Create local events	Encourage event managers to stage/focus events in Awanui	Sport Northland, Enterprise Northland Destination Northland Tai Tokerau Tourism, Arts Promotion Northland, Iwi, Advance Northland Tourism Trust	2013
	Encourage events that utilise the Awanui environment, food, culture and heritage	Business Associations and organisations above	2013
Business promotion	Concerted, focussed promotion of Awanui to attract new business through expansion, re-location and establishment of new business entities.	Business Associations, FNDC, Enterprise Northland,	2018
Promotion of Free Independent Travelling (FIT) market. Become an FIT 'Hub'.	Build facilities and establish activities to encourage stopovers at motel and hotel facilities in Awanui	ABA, Destination Northland, Moteliers Association	2018

## Focus Area: Community Wellbeing

**Statement:** *Awanui is a growing community that accomplishes the aspirations of all who are a part of it.*

Goal	Key Actions	Key Progress Partners	Timeframe
Awanui has excellent facilities for healthy activity	Establish Yoga and tai Chi groups Activate and support local sports clubs Establish a safe and well supported youth club Construct Awanui river Walkway	Sports Northland, Sports clubs, DoC, NRC	2013 2013 2013 2018
Awanui promotes and maintains its clean, healthy environment	Promotes clean streams, river and estuary Promotes clean air and atmosphere Promotes a tidy and attractive township Promotes well managed farmland and catchment area	NRC, DoC, FNDC, Iwi	2013  2013 2013 2013
Awanui has an attractive and bustling Retirement Village	The community engages the residents of the Retirement Village in all community functions and activity	FNDC, Aged concern, Grey Power	2013
Awanui is well served with successful and thriving educational facilities	Pre-school facility Primary school Post-secondary/Tertiary training	Ministry of Education, Awanui Playcentre, Primary. Sobieski, Te Rangi Aniwaniwa	2013
Awanui encourages the full utilisation of current and future assets and facilities	All buildings in Awanui are restored and fully utilised by business and/or community activity	Historical society, FNDC	2018

**Focus Area: Culture, Heritage and Arts**

**Statement: *Awanui honours and appreciates its unique culture, heritage and arts.***

Goal	Key Actions	Key Progress Partners	Timeframe
Cultural Goals	Explore ways of promoting Maori and Dalmatian culture in Awanui Continue to promote Te Reo programmes Establish cultural groups for Mihi and concerts Establish Kapahaka and Maori martial art/Taiaha groups Establish craft groups (weaving, carving etc.)	Iwi, Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Dalmatian Society, Advance Northland Tourism Trust,	2013 2013 2013 2013
Arts goals	Establish a Visual Arts course in Awanui Display local art work Work with 'Kauri Kingdom' to promote Awanui as a 'centre of craft' Follow up on 'Taonga' concept	NorthTec, Te Ara Toi Gallery, Arts promotion Northland  Ken, Bill, Local Hapu	2013 2013 2013 2018
Heritage Goals	Erect Pou Whenua at 3 town entry points Restore murals in town and create more Improve appearance of buildings in village Mount historic photos around the town Create sites of historic interest along the river Promote the display of items of historic interest in shops etc.	Tangata Whenua ASB Community Led Enterprises, Lotto Heritage, Dalmatian Society, Far North Museum, Far North Genealogy Society Keep NZ Beautiful	2013 2013 2013 2013 2018 2018 2018

	Create and display historic photo library		2018
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**Focus Area: Youth**

**Statement: *Awanui will provide a safe environment with opportunities for children and youth to actively contribute to the township's future development.***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Progress Partners</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Youth Representation in community	Establish a 'Youth Council' in the Township	Iwi, Te Rangi Aniwaniwa, Sobieski Training, Awanui Primary	2013
Youth Representation in community (continued)	Elect a member of the Youth Council on to the Awanui Business Association	Youth Council, Awanui Business Association, Awanui Residents Association	2013
Youth Leisure Activities	Organise events with a youth focus utilising existing sports facilities and other institutions, including visual and performing art activities	Sports Clubs, Sobieski Training, Sports Northland, Arts Promotion Northland, FNDC, Tai Tokerau Maori & Cultural Tourism,	2013
Youth Leisure Activities (continued)	Designed to cater for both children and young adults i.e. playgrounds, court areas for casual use	Sports Clubs, Sobieski Training, Sports Northland, Arts Promotion Northland, FNDC, Tai Tokerau Maori & Cultural Tourism,	2013
Youth Community Activity	'Mentor a Youth' Programme'	Local Business's, Ministry of Social Development Local sports and recreation clubs	2013
Youth Community Activity (continued)	Awanui Township Youth Award, for achievement in sport, education and community service	Business Association, Awanui Residents Association	2013

