

OPUA SKATE PARK – SURVEY ANALYSIS

Background

This online survey was commissioned by the Focus Paihia Community Trust to gauge community attitudes to a proposed skatepark in Opuia. The online survey was conducted via SurveyMonkey and was live from 19 September 2014 to 29 September 2014.

Overall Results

The survey attracted 221 respondents. Opuia, Russell and Paihia were the largest participating communities with 33.8%, 20.3% and 16.7% respectively. The wide participation by local shows the construction of a skatepark in Opuia is of interest to communities beyond Opuia.

<u>Responses By Location</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>
Haruru Falls	26	11.8
Kawakawa	15	6.8
Kerikeri	11	5.0
Opuia	75	33.9
Paihia	37	16.7
Russell	44	20.0
Te Haumi	10	4.5
Waitangi	3	1.4
	221	100.0

RESPONSES TO: Would you like to see a skate park in Opuia? YES/NO

The overall 85.3% positive response and the 86.8% from Opuia residents are indicative of strong support for a skatepark in Opuia. The positive responses from the nearby communities of Paihia and Russell suggests that Opuia is seen as a central and convenient location for those communities. The support from Russell is probably a consequence of an unsuccessful attempt to have a skatepark built in Russell some years ago.

<u>Responses to:</u>			
<u>Would you like to see a skate park in Opuia? YES/NO</u>			
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>
Haruru Falls	23	4	85.2
Kawakawa	5	10	33.3
Kerikeri	10	1	90.9
Opuia	66	10	86.8
Paihia	33	5	86.8
Russell	42	2	95.5
Te Haumi	10	0	100.0
Waitangi	2	1	66.6
	191	33	85.3

Note: two respondents answered both YES and NO giving a TOTAL of 224

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The responses to this question how some marked differences depending on where people live. While there were 10 “NO” responses from both Kawakawa and Opuā. Kawakawa respondents answered “NO” because they want a skatepark in Kawakawa whereas the 10 Opuā “NOs” usually had a point to make about the desirability of a skatepark in Opuā.

Responses to:
Would you like to see a skate park in Opuā? YES/NO

	YES		NO	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>
Haruru Falls	23	12.0	4	12.1
Kawakawa	5	2.6	10	30.3
Kerikeri	10	5.2	1	3.0
Opuā	66	34.6	10	30.3
Paihia	33	17.3	5	15.1
Russell	42	22.0	2	6.1
Te Haumi	10	5.2	0	0
Waitangi	2	1.0	1	3
	191	100.0	33	100.0

RESPONSES TO: Would you like to see a skate park in Opuā? - If NO why not?

Comments from those who answered NO to the first question made comments predominantly about location. For example, Haruru Falls respondents advocated Paihia as the preferred location and most of the 10 from Kawakawa preferred Kawakawa. Four of the 10 responses from Opuā suggested other locations such as Paihia/Waitangi, one couldn't see a great benefit, one was concerned about noise, one stated "safety issues" and another "tagging". Two other responses were: "No suitable area. Opuā is a more family orientated place" and "We need other things here before a skatepark." Interestingly, the NO responses were generally accompanied by constructive comments.

RESPONSES TO: Are there any potential problems that you envisage?

Just over a third of respondents answered YES to this question with 46.7% of Opuā respondents answering YES.

Responses to:
Are there any potential problems that you envisage?

	YES		NO	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>
Haruru Falls	8	18	30.8	
Kawakawa	8	7	53.3	
Kerikeri	4	7	36.4	
Opuā	35	40	46.7	
Paihia	10	27	27.0	
Russell	13	31	29.5	
Te Haumi	3	7	30.0	
Waitangi	0	3	0	
	81	140	36.7	

Note: two respondents answered both YES and NO giving a TOTAL of 224

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RESPONSES TO: Are there any potential problems that you envisage? - If yes please elaborate below

This question produced a wide range of responses and constructive suggestions. Recurring themes with the most common at the top of the list are:

- anti-social behaviour, bullying and dominance by older skaters
- attracting undesirables/"ferals" from other areas
- littering, graffiti/tagging and vandalism
- cost – who is paying for construction and ongoing maintenance
- not enough use
- accidents and injuries at the skatepark and on the roads leading to it
- access for children from poor communities
- availability of a suitable location with parking
- noise
- drugs and substance abuse

One response captured most of the concerns: *"Anti social behaviour, increase in crime including vandilism and graffiti, intoxication and under age drinking. All these things that are normal behaviour at skate parks. Potentially driving offences"*

The constructive suggestions:

- must be highly visible – *"positioning is key"*
- needs to be high quality – *"Bad design will ruin it"*
- good lighting and maybe supervision and CCTV
- easy access to drinking water and toilets
- seating for those wishing to watch the skate boarders

One respondent stated: *"They should be constructed in an open area that can be viewed by the public and police."* and another: *"Sometimes louts hang out, but a parent or two in attendance always deters the unsavoury element!"* and another: *"Can see that it will be safer in Opuā than other areas though unfortunately!"*

RESPONSES TO: Have you any suggestions for a location?

Respondents tended to suggest locations near where they live. For example Kawakawa residents want a skatepark in Kawakawa. Locations other than Opuā included Te Haumi Flats, Ti Beach and Waitangi. Several respondents noted the need for high visibility or as one put it: *"not tucked away"*.

Opuā residents and others who specified a location in Opuā overwhelmingly favour the marina carpark and *"near the marina café"* was a common suggestion. Of the 50 Opuā residents who offered commented 23 suggested the marina carpark and as did another 15 from Haruru Falls, Kawakawa and Russell. Other locations suggested were: near the gymnasium in Kane St, on the land at the top of the Opuā Hill (the recently remodelled park), near the school and *"in the dirt car park adjacent to the Marinated café"*.

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RESPONSES TO: The skate park is proposed to be available for use from 7am till sunset. Do you agree, (if not please make a suggestion below).

The proposed hours are acceptable to 85.1% of all respondents and responses are consistent across the communities.

Responses to:

The skate park is proposed to be available for use from 7am till sunset. Do you agree, if not please make a suggestion below.

	YES	NO	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% age</u>
Haruru Falls	24	2	92.3
Kawakawa	12	3	80.0
Kerikeri	10	1	90.9
Opuā	63	12	84.0
Paihia	32	5	86.5
Russell	38	6	86.4
Te Haumi	7	3	70.0
Waitangi	2	1	66.7
	188	33	85.1

RESPONSES TO: The skate park is proposed to be available for use from 7am till sunset. Do you agree, if not please make a suggestion below. - If NO please state your suggested hours below.

Respondents had a wide range of suggestions with several advocating the skatepark should be open 24/7 and the most restrictive suggestion was 10.00am to 4.00pm from a respondent who really didn't want a skatepark at all. A number suggested a later starting time such as 8.00am, 9.00am or 10.00am and a number suggested a fixed closing time such as 8.30pm, 9.00pm or 10.00pm.

A few respondents wondered how the hours would be monitored, policed and enforced.

RESPONSES TO: Please provide any other feedback below.

This open ended question prompted an outpouring of support for a skatepark in Opuā. There's no obvious way to summarise the responses so below is a representative sample:

“What an awesome idea - The skatepark would provide an activity for both local children & visiting boat children - I think a skatepark is a fantastic idea but the placement of it is important - Would be a wise idea to have a designated area for young riders - I grew up around a great skate park and my friends and I really enjoyed the space, exercise, role modelling, social time. Led to surfing & snowboarding all good stuff. Would love to bring my children to it. - It's a good idea to have some cool graffiti murals painted on it, that deters unsavoury graffiti and makes them look cool - My kids go to Opuā school and we often spend time in opua before going home. The park will be a brilliant reason to stay longer - Good if there were some small ramps for little kids too - Great idea if suitable location found - I really hope this goes through. My wife and I have kids up at our place from the overseas boats because there is nothing to do for them in Opuā. I applauded the focus group for this initiative. The kids get chased away from skating in most other areas and often end up running foul of residents and authorities - It's awesome for Opuā, good luck. And I do look forward to this being a well used facility across the region (the nearest one's are Kerikeri, Kaikohe & Whangarei) - I often take my kids to Whangarei Skate park. It's great to see kids from 3 to 35 all using the same facility, all with different skill levels and all working together. - Very good idea, if it going to be

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done it should be done well, get youth input, make sure it is not lame, we are happy to assist as best we can. good luck - **Great for visiting boaties kids so they don't have to skate round the car parks which is dangerous.** - It would be nice to incorporate a type of water park feature alongside. Not slides just jets of water for all the family to enjoy. Like in Cairns! - **great idea** - Being a female skater boarder for over 10years. In my time I have been and seen a lot of skate parks around New Zealand and have always found the enthusiasm, willingness to learn and excellent fitness for kids a great investment! Experiences/pro skater boards always put on a great show and a very inspiring to watch too. As a family I would love this opportunity for my 7 year old boy, myself and community our full support :-) Best of luck - **Absolutely awesome!!!** - Think this could be an amazing asset to opua and give some thing for the children to do, especially for teenagers in a safe environment. - **Great move for our kids** - I have seen many skateparks being built over the last few years. The design process and laying of concrete is **ESSENTIAL** for the parks success. - **Skateboarding is awesum** - Where ever the park is located. It needs to be in plain view of anyone going past, Why? Because if it is Hidden away from public view, it will become a breeding ground for Crime. - **I do think though that the Park is a very good Idea, Just think back to Me skating on the Road by Post office all those years ago... Wouldve been nice if Id had a skate park.** - Great idea and good place for the kids to go but has the potential of attracting trouble makers if not managed properly. - **love the idea!** - It would be good if there was a general children's playground too. - **Sooner the better** - Make sure you consult with the kids who use the skate park. - **great idea and long over due** - This project must happen. All the ramps etc are there. Skaters keen to skate them. Happy to add more input if needed. - **I Think it would be a great thing for the youth, its good exercise, and helps develop good social skills.** - this is much needed - **This is an amazing opportunity for Opuia and the children!** - Although the concept sounds good please please make sure you have the good kids security & safety first & foremost - **A great opportunity to provide activities for the local and visiting kids. Well done!** - Great idea! - **I think this is such an amazing initiative! It will give kids something positive to do and it will bring family's in to the area who will then use the cafe and shops. Love it!!** - awesome idea. something to do for the young ones. - **This will be a great asset for the BOI. Keeps kids off the streets; keeps kids doing healthy activities instead of playing computer games; will be a great additional land-based activity. May I congratulate Focus Paihia once again for a fine project - keep up the wonderful good work and I look forward to participating in the not too distant future!** - If it's run properly and someone takes responsibility for it in respect of behaviour and the park itself then it's a great idea. If it becomes a hang out for the "wrong" crowd then there will be trouble. - **Should be very visible to any passerby and cars like the one in Kerikeri.** - I and my family believe this would be such a positive aspect for the youth that live here/surrounding areas and also the cruising kids whom first welcome into NZ is Opuia Port therefore if there's something for them to do here it may disincline the family boats from leaving to Whangarei and provide more financial growth into Opuia, Paihia & Kawakawa. The kids currently are using the streets and hills around Opuia for practicing their skating activities and this is dangerous especially with the summer influx of tourists, we must get them off the roads and into a safe environment like the dedicated skate park. - **I think this would be great for my boys - they get a bit over the beach & having to play at their school on weekends - when they've been there all week!**