

# ***Otorohanga District Council Sport and Active Recreation Plan Summary Document October 2019***

## **Introduction**

The provision of opportunities for participation in sport, recreation, physical activity and play have an important role in creating healthy, vibrant communities. Within the Otorohanga District 77% of adults and 57% of young people (12-17 years) see physical activity as an essential part of their life or regular routine (Sport Waikato, 2019a).

Otorohanga District Council and Sport Waikato would like to work together to support the provision of sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities for the Otorohanga community.

The Otorohanga District (similar to the Waikato Region and New Zealand as a whole) faces a number of challenges that necessitate improved and collaborative planning.

## **Methodology**

The process of developing The Otorohanga District Sport and Active Recreation Plan included three areas of focus including survey assessment, secondary data analysis (trends in sport and district demographics) and community consultation.

## **Key population trends to consider**

- The Otorohanga District had a population of 9,138 people at the 2013 census
- Stable population overall
- Aging population
- Projected increase in Maaori population from 27% of the population in 2015 to 34% by 2038

## **Key participation trends**

### ***Otorohanga College***

Otorohanga College had a larger percentage of boys and girls participating in sport than the regional averages from 2013 through to 2017. However, in 2017 the percentage of total participation in sport dropped from 71% to 61% (10%) and fell another 1% the following year. The number of sports offered also dropped from 23 sports in 2017 to only 13 sports offered in 2018.

### ***Otorohanga District Sport and Recreation Clubs***

17 clubs, recorded as part of the Sport Waikato Be Active database, listed their participation numbers when responding to the club survey; in 2018 there was a total of 1949 members of sports clubs. Approximately 48% were male and 42% were female. Membership numbers remained consistent for the 8 clubs who listed their membership numbers for multiple years, allowing us to look at trends in their memberships. Overall, these 8 clubs had an average increase of 10 members each club. 29% of these members were under 18 years old and 71% were over 18 years old.

## **Volunteering**

Twelve clubs provided information about their volunteer base. These twelve clubs had a total of 179 volunteers.

- 11% of the survey respondents reported that their volunteer base had increased over the past five years.
- 17% reported a decrease in their volunteer base in the past five years.
- 33% reported that their volunteer base was 'about the same'.

### ***Consultations***

Two community consultations were run in Otorohanga township, including approximately 28 community members, representing most of the larger clubs within Otorohanga Districts. Sport Waikato also attended a Kawhia Community Board meeting and presented on the plan and current service provision within the community.

Key topics discussed included volunteering, young people, facility concerns, membership numbers, funding, improved communication, and the need for continued conversations about opportunities for isolated communities.

### **Strategic priorities and recommendations**

From these consultations Sport Waikato developed the Plan's strategic priorities and recommendations. These are closely linked to the partner strategy of Moving Waikato 2025 and Community outcomes defined in the Otorohanga District Council LTP 2018-2028.

### **Our People**

#### ***Women and girls***

Research shows that there are clear inequalities in participation rates in the sport and active recreation sector for women and girls. The Otorohanga District Council and Sport Waikato would like to work together to increase the participation of women and girls in sport and active recreation. The reconstruction of sport and active recreation opportunities to be more inclusive and accommodating of the wants and needs of women and girls is critical to increasing participation.

#### ***Young people***

The Otorohanga District has a strong focus on providing opportunities for young people, through employment opportunities and opportunities to be active. A focus on young people should consider the development of a stronger connection between schools, Sport Waikato and clubs.

The School Sport NZ Census data found that since 2017 there has been a decrease in participation and provision of sporting opportunities within Otorohanga College. Additionally, the Club survey found that clubs in Otorohanga District are predominantly catering for adults (70% of members).

Creating competition structures and participation opportunities for young people should be an area for community and club development. There should be a focus on catering for participants who are young people and providing them with quality experiences to help maintain participation and prevent drop off.

#### ***Maaori***

Maaori make up a large percentage of the population of Otorohanga District (currently 27% but by 2038 Maaori are projected to make up 34% of the population) (Statistics New Zealand, 2019b). Future delivery of opportunities needs to consider Maaori participants' wants and needs. Research shows that a by Maaori for Maaori in Maaori settings approach enhances the quality of experiences and participation rates of Maaori. With popular sports including Basketball, Rugby, Rugby League and Netball. A focus in this area in partnership with Sport Waikato's He Oranga Poutama Kaiwhakahaere should be a priority to grow participation.

#### ***Older Persons***

The proportion of the population that is over 65 years will increase over the next 10 years due to the aging of the "baby boomers". Consideration must be given to the aging population when planning opportunities for the future. Opportunities to connect with community groups, aged facilities and centres should be a priority.

## **Building Communities**

### ***Club development (capability support)***

Through the community and survey consultation processes it was identified that many of the clubs, in particular developing clubs, would benefit from club development or capability support.

This support should have a key focus on:

- Increasing participants
- Finances and sponsorship
- Volunteers
- Coach development
- Health and Safety

To a lesser extent clubs have also asked for support in facility development; community sport partnerships; targeting women and girls; facility management; delivery for inclusion; event management; development of club programmes; and all of the above.

### ***Sport, active recreation and physical activity providers and settings***

Nationally research shows that participation preferences are changing. A key focus must be on connecting the community with opportunities beyond sport – for active recreation and physical activity in natural landscapes. A key example of this approach will be in the Kawhia community where Sport Waikato will need to facilitate a wider community forum to develop opportunities to be active that could be led and owned by the community and providers within the community with support from Sport Waikato.

### ***Development of a sport and active recreation advisory group***

To help promote a joined-up approach to facilities, funding applications, and sharing of knowledge the development of an Otorohanga District Sport Council or coalition would be beneficial for clubs, community organisations, providers and individuals within the community.

## **Regional Leadership**

### ***Facilities***

There is a need to have a joined up collaborative approach to facility maintenance and development in the future to make sure that communities are making the most out of limited funding. Sport Waikato's Regional Facilities Advisor can provide expert advice around facility and space development.

### ***Working towards a King Country collaborative approach***

Opportunities exist for the Otorohanga District Council and Waitomo District Council to provide a collaborative approach to the provision of sport, recreation and physical activity for the community. Collaborative approaches exist regionally (Regional Sports Facilities plan as an example) and across other Local Authority initiatives.

### ***Closer connections and collaboration between clubs, education, health, Sport Waikato and council***

Central government's focus on the four wellbeings has broadened the role of Sport Waikato, expanding Sport Waikato's focus to more than just traditional forms of sport. Sport Waikato wants to make sure that we are increasing physical activity so that it improves wellbeing of our communities. Other essential partners for this focus on wellbeing are territorial authorities, sport, recreation, education and health providers.